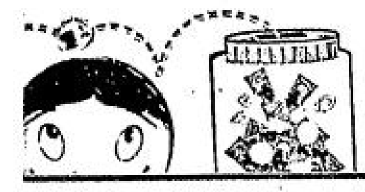


■ Lifestyle / C2
How to master entrepreneurship while young

■ World / A10
Terror alert in US based on info of captured Pakistani Muslim extremist

■ Business / B1
PLDT's 6-month profit soars to P12B

■ Metro A20
A good cop is (not) hard to find

Tanong ng Bayan/A12
Dapat bang limitahan ang dami ng anak?
WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

Gov't agency turns around, admits Metro air polluted

By Christine Gaylican

POLLUTION has worsened in Makati, Quezon City and Valenzuela, contrary to the sweeping statement of the Environment Management Bureau (EMB) last week that the air quality in Metro Manila was "within acceptable levels."

"Pollution levels are up in these cities and,

GOV'T/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, August 4, 2004 ★★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 238 P18

Ex-Abu hostage confirms collusion

VAL HANDUMON

WHAT, me apologize for DOJ's glaring mistake? Not President Arroyo here shown at the Ledac meeting at the Palace on Tuesday.

Osmeña wants to reopen inquiry

By Fe Zamora and Christine O. Avendaño

SHE MAY be a missionary, and a brave one at that, but should her statements be taken as Divine Revelation?

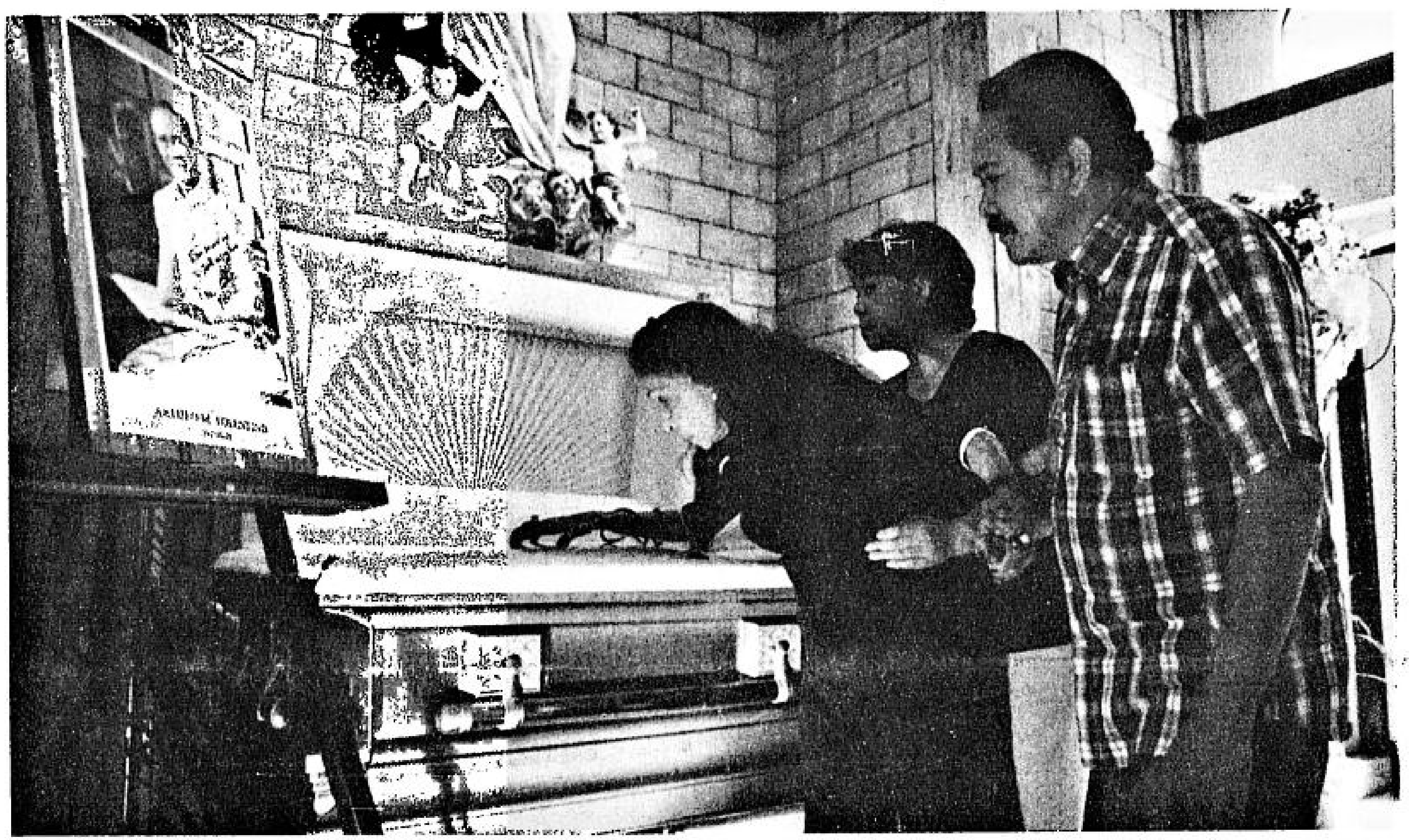
Former Abu Sayyaf hostage Buddy Recio posed this question yesterday as he reaffirmed his previous testimony to the Senate alleging that there was a connivance between some military officers and the bandit group.

"Her statements are being treated like Divine Revelation, but what about the statements of the other victims?" Recio asked in an interview with the INQUIRER. "What about those who were killed? What about those who were raped?"

Recio was among the witnesses who testified at hearings held by the Senate committees on national defense and human rights in 2002 on alleged collusion between some Armed Forces officers and the Abu Sayyaf.

A Senate report at the time said the two committees found

EX-ABU/ A19



GRIEVING family led by Arturo Tolentino's widow, Constancia, daughter Bernardita and son Arturo Jr. at the Santuario de San Jose Parish Church, Greenhills, San Juan. Funeral rites for the man who would be president are scheduled on Saturday. RUDY ESPERAS

'Ka Turing,' veteran lawmaker, dies at 93

By Fe Zamora

ONE OF the last of the Old Guard, former Sen. Arturo Tolentino, died on Monday night at age 93.

Fondly called "Ka Turing" by friends, the veteran lawmaker, who authored or sponsored some 2,000 bills, notably the Law of the Sea, in a brilliant legislative career, died of a heart attack, his family said.

Tolentino, who had been under medication for the past few years, was taken ill at his house in Quezon City and a nurse keeping a 24-hour watch over him immediately called his children.

The children rushed him to the Makati Medical Center but he did not make it, eldest son, Arturo Jr., told the INQUIRER.

Tolentino died at around 9:30 p.m.

Tolentino's remains lie in state at Santuario de San José in Greenhills and President Macapagal-Arroyo was expected to pay her respects last night.

According to still tentative plans, he will be buried on Saturday at the La Loma Public Cemetery in Blumentritt, family members said.

In a will he executed in 1967

KA TURING/ A4

2 more JI suspects behind LRT bombings arrested

By TJ Burgonio

TWO SUSPECTED local operatives of the regional terrorist group Jemaah Islamiya (JI) have been arrested in Central Mindanao in connection with the country's worst terror attack that killed 22 people and wounded 100 in Metro Manila four years ago.

The military yesterday reported the arrest of Mamasa Naga and Abdul Pata as the Philippine National Police assured the public that the country was safe from a terrorist strike following the most specific terrorism warnings in the United States since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Lt. Cmdr. Earl Evan Pabalan, acting military information officer, said Naga and Pata were captured by members of the Army intelligence group and the 7th Marine Landing Battalion around 11 a.m. Monday at Barangay Lilod, in Marawi City.

Pabalan said a Daewoo pistol and several documents detailing JI links in the country were seized from Naga, alias Zainal Paks, and Pata, alias Mohamad Amir.

Naga and Pata are among at least 10 people facing charges of multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder and multiple attempted murder in connection with Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

Warrants for their arrest had been issued by the Manila Regional Trial Court, which is hearing the case.

2 MORE JI/ A19

Palace tells judges: Keep hands off ERC's cases

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday told judges to keep their hands off the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), which it said was handling intricate power-related cases beyond the expertise of the regular courts.

"While we respect its [judicial court] decision, we also make an appeal to our courts to give the ERC, also an independent body, the benefit of the doubt and allow it to exercise its competence and proficiency in resolving highly complicated and technical power issues," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing yesterday.

Heeding Malacañang's advice

PALACE/ A4

Candles burn bright for final surgery of RP twins in NY

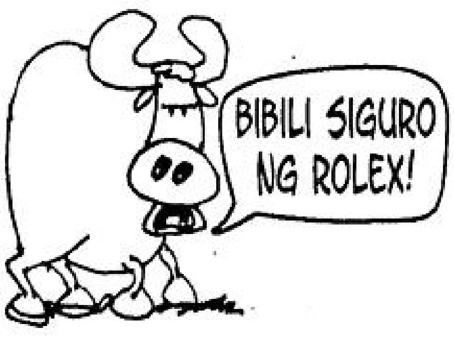
By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—For nearly a year, a red candle has been burning on the family altar of a small house in a remote village of Silay City in Negros Occidental.

"That light is like our hope that never dies," Evelindia Aguirre, 55, had said.

Halfway around the world, her grandchildren, Carl and Clarence, the 2-year-old conjoined twins, are set to undergo on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) their fourth—possibly fi-

CANDLES/ A19


BIBILI SIGURO NG ROLEX!

Erap Swiss trip OK for Malacañang

By Armand Nocum and Juliet L. Javellana

MALACAÑANG is more than cool about the prospect of ousted President Joseph Estrada flying to Bern, Switzerland, for medical treatment.

"If and when this request is granted, there should be no objection and we should be happy for [him]," President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday in a press briefing.

ERAP/ A4

At 19, Fil-Am youngest Harvard law grad, a magna

By Cristina DC Pastor
Contributor

NEW YORK—He was reading serious grownup books at 3, carrying on a conversation about Warren Buffet's stock picks at 6, and had written a paper on alternative treatments for rheumatoid arthritis by the time he was 11.

He finished an undergraduate course in computer science and mathematics at 16.

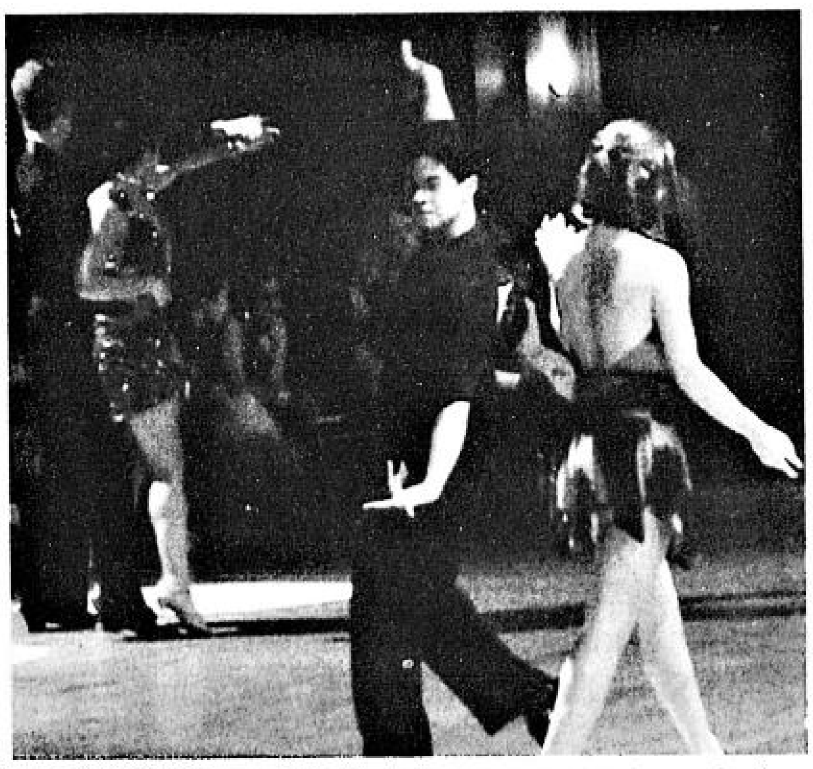
Last June, at age 19, he earned his doctorate in law magna cum laude, making him possibly the youngest graduate in Harvard Law School history.

Philippine-born Kiwi Alejandro Danao Camara, who turned 20 on June 16, has a life running on fast-forward and he is enjoying the ride immensely.

"[But] I don't feel I'm different," Kiwi told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I'm just a regular guy."

While awaiting results of the bar exams he took last week, Kiwi is winding down his research for the Harvard units of the John M. Olin Fellowship in Law and Economics, and Berkman Center for Internet and Society.

AT 19/ A8



"PRINCIPAL nonacademic pursuit," Camara calls his ballroom dancing expertise. He was with the Harvard-Radcliffe Ballroom Dance Team.

KIWICAMARA.COM

MEET Kiwi Alejandro Camara, who made history in Harvard Law School.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/04/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text Feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gov't to give out ₱15B to save ₱7B each year

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT is giving P15 billion "incentive" for government employees who would opt to be "voluntarily separated" from government service so that it could save up to P7 billion in salaries every year, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday.

Stressing that separation from government service would be voluntary, Boncodin said as many as 40,000 government employees could avail of the incentive that would be on top of the regular retirement benefits.

Boncodin formally presented President Macapagal-Arroyo's "government rationalization program" in yesterday's meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, to seek congressional support for the re-engineering bill.

Boncodin stressed that early retirement or separation of government employees would be voluntary but she estimated that as many as 40,000 government workers could opt for separation and avail themselves of the incentive package.

Boncodin said the government bureaucracy is composed of 1.4 million employees, 1.1 million of whom are employed by the national government including 500,000 public school teachers and 200,000 police and military personnel.

Boncodin said that since the government was not going to retire teachers and is in fact going to increase the number of law enforcers, the re-engineering could only affect 300,000 government employees.

"So you're really talking of 300,000 civil servants. This is going to be the base of the re-engineering effort," she said.

Boncodin was careful to give an estimate of how many employees would be affected, saying, "It's difficult to say because it's voluntary."

But she relented. "If you can just save maybe 10 percent of 300,000 (employees), that I think would be good enough," she said.

But Boncodin said the figures could change.

"The margin could be very wide. But if you say 10 percent, that would be about 25,000 to 30,000 (employees) but it could lower and it could be more. It's a wide range, it could be between 15,000 to 40,000," she said.

Boncodin said the government has allocated P15 billion in the reenacted 2004 budget for the incentive pay and would include it again in the proposed 2005 budget.

Ms Arroyo has dubbed it the "government re-engineering with silver parachute."

Boncodin said the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the European Commission, Canada, Australia and New Zealand were even willing to bankroll the incentive program.

Boncodin said the details of the incentive package are still being discussed but she said it could be twice the amount of the regular retirement pay.

But Boncodin said: "It is a voluntary separation scheme... therefore it is not a mass layoff, neither is it a forced retirement of employees in the public service."

"An employee working in a government unit whose functions are deemed abolished or are duplicating will be given the opportunity to either voluntarily retire or to remain in government service," she said.

She said those who opt to stay would be included in a pool of government employees who will be under the direct supervision of the Civil Service Commission. She said the CSC would "re-deploy" the employees to agencies that require additional manpower.

Boncodin said those who opt to stay in government service would not suffer a pay cut and would not be "punished" by being deployed to far-off areas.

She said the rationalization program was being implemented to cut costs and make the government a more efficient agency.

"It is essentially a program to ensure that government delivers the services more effectively and more efficiently," she said.

Group demands audit of RP debt

By Volt Contreras

WITH the government's total debts now at P5.39 trillion and growing, a financial watchdog and several lawmakers yesterday demanded an "audit" retracing how these loans had piled up through the years and whether the money really served public rather than private interests.

Noting that borrowings under the Arroyo administration had already exceeded those individually made by the Aquino, Ramos and Estrada presidencies, the Freedom from Debt Coalition said "critical questions" should be asked on where the money went.

"It's time go beyond financial statistics," said FDC president Ana Maria Nemenzo in a press forum in Quezon City. "Were the funds actually spent for the intended purposes? What were the terms and conditions accompanying these loans?"

Nemenzo said a venue should be set explaining how these loans—and the automatic debt payments the leave the government more cash-strapped each year—have impacted on the lives of ordinary Filipinos.

Ninoy killers' bid for release rejected by SC

By Philip C. Tubeza

LESS than three weeks before the 21st anniversary of the assassination of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., the Supreme Court yesterday denied for lack of merit the convicted killers' petition to be freed.

The SC rejected the petitions of convicts Capt. Romeo Bautista and Sgt. Arnulfo Artates, who asked the court to order their release and 13 other Aviation Security Command (Avsecom) members who were convicted for the killing in 1983 of Aquino and Rolando Galman, the man that the military had tagged as the assassin.

Artates and Bautista claimed that they were already qualified for parole since they had served the minimum of their required prison terms and have maintained a good record while in jail.

They also cited a memo of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in April which directed all trial judges nationwide to immediately release prisoners whose cases have been dismissed.

The Sandiganbayan sentenced the convicts to double life terms in 1990. As of 2003, they had served a total of 18 years in prison, including the time they were detained during their trial.

But senior state prosecutor Teresita Reyes Domingo, chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole, explained that under the law, prisoners sentenced to death or reclusion perpetua cannot be paroled unless their sentences are commuted first.

Even good conduct while in prison has no effect unless the sentence of reclusion perpetua is commuted, she said.

Besides Bautista and Artates, the other convicts in the double murder case who are still detained at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa are: Sgts. Pablo Martinez, Romeo Desolong, Ernesto Mateo, Rolando de Guzman, Ruben Aquino and Felizardo Taran; and A1C Cordova Estelo.

Also detained are the members of the boarding party which took Aquino out of the plane—2nd Lt. Jesus Castro, Sgts. Claro Lat and Arnulfo de Mesa, T/Sgt. Filomeno Miranda, Constable 1st Class Mario Lazaga and C1C Rogelio Moreno.

Former Avsecom chief Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio was also convicted but died of cancer in prison.

Last year, the Aquino family turned down appeals from the convicts for the family not to object to their petition to have their double-life sentences commuted. The parole board normally takes into consideration the opinion of the family of the victim in such cases.

Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the martyred Aquino's son, said the convicts should first admit to killing his father.

"We told them that the barest minimum these soldiers can do is to admit what they have done and show remorse," the congressman said.

The Aquino assassination sparked the tumult of protest that led to the downfall of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and propelled Aquino's widow, Corazon, to the presidency.

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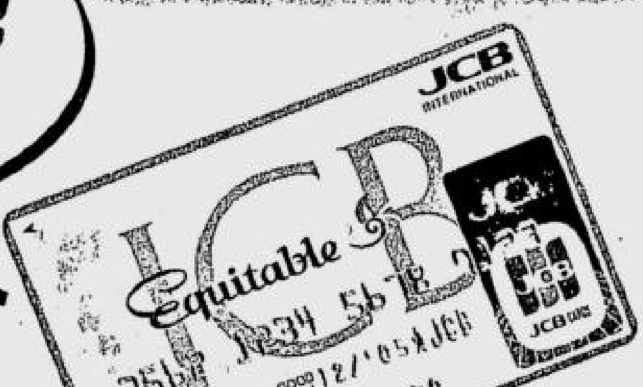

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'I HAVE LEGS'

Bionic boy eager to start normal life

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACLAYON, Bohol—A day after coming home from a 46-day trip in Australia, Juriel Amora is eager to begin life anew, as a normal 4-year-old boy.

Home is a modest one-story bungalow in Purok Talisay, Barangay Laya, nearly 2 km upland from the town proper.

Except for a brief moment when he beamed broadly upon seeing his picture on the INQUIRER's front page on Monday, Juriel was completely engrossed in child play—like any ordinary boy his age. But he is not just like any other, for he was born without legs and with only a right arm.

"The first thing that he told me when they arrived was 'Mama, *meron na akong paa!* (Mother, I have legs!)," said his mother Trinidad, 34.

She later explained that the boy picked a few Filipino phrases and words when he and his father Joel stayed in the home of an Australian-Filipino family shortly upon their arrival on June 16.

Juriel was fitted with new legs and an arm, mainly through the efforts of Danny Simms, a farmer and part-time preacher for the New Zealand Anglican Church. Simms, a friend of Philippine Independent Church bishop Robespierre Moreno, saw the boy when he visited Bohol in September last year.

15-year commitment

Joel, 41, a brother-in-law of Moreno, said the image of Juriel gamely riding on a skateboard gnawed at Simms more than enough for him to make a "15-year commitment" to help the boy.

Simms spread the word about Juriel when he returned to his country. Donors and benefactors in neighboring Australia responded to the call for help.

In March, Simms told the Amoras that two prosthetics experts, directors Rudi Doller and Eugenio Scanu of the Appliance and Lims Center in Sydney had offered their products and services for free.

These would cost from A$10,000 to A$15,000 (P390,000 to P590,000), an amount too high for the meager income of Joel, a hospital clerk, and Trinidad, a fish vendor, who also have four other children to take care of.

Emerging as a unique poster boy of Filipino-Australian relations, Juriel became a media sensation in Australia when he was prominently featured in various media organizations.

JURIEL AMORA: Child's play.

Instant celebs

Upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Saturday after the nine-hour flight from Sydney, Juriel and his father became instant celebrities. But the child seemed oblivious to all the attention when the INQUIRER visited him at their house on Monday afternoon.

With two playmates and a younger brother, Juriel was completely preoccupied while assembling multicolored Lego blocks. "*Naghimo og simbahan* (Building a church)," he explained, his eyes not leaving his toys as he spoke.

A few moments later, the focus on the activity waned and Juriel was out of the house with his playmates. Although still adjusting to his new "feet," the boy frolicked with the other children.

To Joel, his son's preschool education when he turns five on Oct. 11 is now within reach.

Before leaving for Australia, Joel had decided to buy a wheelchair for his son. He acknowledged how inconvenient it would be when it was time for his son to go to school given his limitations.

"I was set to quit my job so I can personally look after him," he revealed.

Joel said the thought of sacrificing that much, for his son must have troubled Simms a lot because he did not rest until he was able to generate the kind of response he eventually got in Australia.

Adjustments

Still, Joel knew that his son would still need his presence during the initial days at school, particularly because his classmates would need to adjust to his condition.

But Joel is confident that his boy would eventually be able to find his way by himself. Juriel, he said, "is determined. When he wants something, he won't quit until he gets it."

Before the interview could get any farther, Juriel suddenly approached his father and tugged his arm, a new interest lighting up his face.

Both parents smiled apologetically as the boy kept pulling his father while coyly mumbling a few words.

"He said he wants us to go to the mall," Joel said.

Smiling triumphantly as his father rose to his feet, Juriel rushed out of the house, barely showing any effects of the artificial legs as he did. His mind was fired up at the mere anticipation of the trip to the mall, just like any ordinary boy.

As expected, Church bucks birth control

THE CATHOLIC Church yesterday assailed attempts by some legislators to promote family planning, saying the clergy would campaign against them for pushing birth control.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, head of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) committee on marriage, reiterated the church's opposition to artificial contraception.

Cruz said the bishops would meet with members of Congress to convince them to defeat bills promoting family planning while urging the public not to vote for legislators who are promoting the bill. *AFP*

Unicef expresses alarm over child porn in RP

THE UNITED Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) yesterday expressed alarm over the growing incidence of child pornography in the Philippines and appealed to the mass media to stop the "sexualization" of children.

"The United Nations Children's Fund is outraged that children in the Philippines are being used in pornography. Child pornography is a gross violation of children's rights," said Dr. Nicholas Alipui, the Unicef country representative in Manila.

The Unicef commissioned a study on child pornography to determine the extent of the problem.

"Results so far show that child pornography in the Philippines is more widespread than previously thought," the UN agency said in a statement.

Alipui noted that the case of the 70 children, aged 5 to 12, who were rescued from a pornography ring in Laguna early last month showed the seriousness of the problem.

Unicef said that widespread poverty and tolerance of prostitution were just some of the factors that contribute to the proliferation of child pornography in the Philippines.

Other factors include the country's sex tourism, the availability of advanced communication technology, lack of stringent laws against child pornography and inefficient prosecution of perpetrators.

The study said that the opportunity to distribute and propagate pornographic materials are "boundless" as technological advances have made it possible for pornographers to produce and disseminate pornographic images of children.

"Internet pornographic sites and chat rooms, digital cameras and cellular phones have facilitated the production and distribution of pornographic images," the Unicef report said.

Alipui also urged the media to stop "the sexualization and eroticization" of children.

"Any form of child pornography is simply not acceptable. We must all work together to put a stop to it," he said.

The Unicef report said that the 70 children who were rescued were just a "minority" of the victims as "many other children victimized in pornography are never rescued."

Alipui reminded Philippine authorities of their obligations under international and national laws to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Alipui cited the laws, like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which seek to protect children from being forced to engage in any unlawful sexual activity, prostitution and any pornographic performance.

There's also the "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography," which calls on governments to ensure that adults involved in child exploitation are punished, he said.

The Philippines ratified the latter convention in 2002.

TJ Burgonio and Martin Marfil

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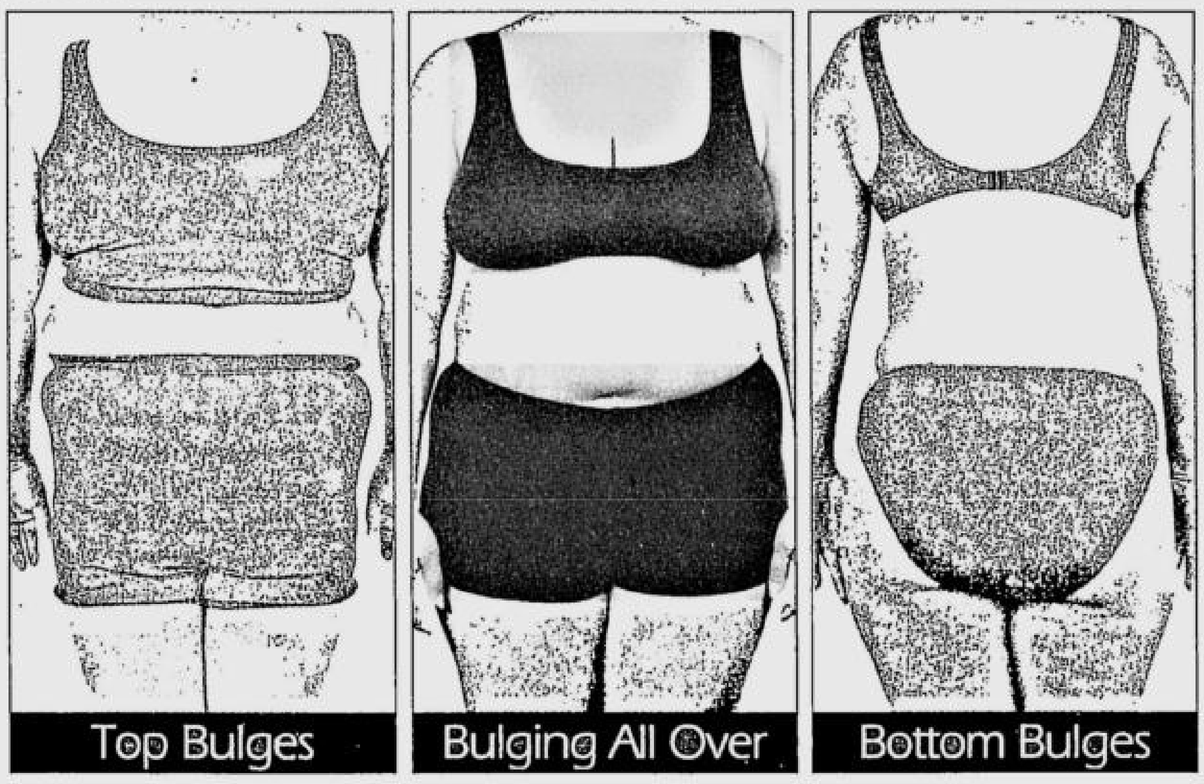

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'Ka Turing,' veteran lawmaker, dies at 93

From page A1

and kept in a sealed envelope, Tolentino specified that his possessions "must be equally divided" among his seven children, Arturo Jr. said.

Tolentino had three children—Arturo Jr., Evelyn and Anabelle—with his first wife, Consuelo David, Arturo Jr. said.

He said his father also had three children—Bernadette, Salvador and Vic Arturo—with his second wife, Constancia Conde.

He had a daughter, Elenita, with his third wife, Rosita Robles.

He refused hearing aids

Always health conscious, Tolentino lived on a diet of fish and vegetable, avoiding pork and eggs, in his last years. He also tried to keep himself fit by doing breathing exercises.

His children tried to give him the most expensive hearing aids they could get for him "but he refused to use them," Arturo Jr. said.

Still, he maintained communication with his family through letters, delivered by courier, or by fax.

The Senate cut short its session yesterday after passing a resolution expressing profound sadness.

'Ka Turing,' to friends

"On behalf of the government and the entire nation, we would like to express our sense of deep loss on the demise of former Sen. Arturo Tolentino," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

"Fondly called 'Ka Turing' by colleagues and friends, Tolentino was a statesman, scholar, writer and diplomat ... Up to the time of his death, Tolentino continued to express his erudite views on issues confronting the country."

"May his soul rest in peace," Ms Arroyo added.

Foreign Secretary Delia Albert sent her condolences in a letter to the late senator's wife, Constancia Tolentino.

Albert also ordered Philippine diplomatic posts around the world to open condolence books.

WHEN the world was young and Sen. Arturo Tolentino (extreme left) was in his prime along with President Marcos, Vice President Fernando Lopez, Senators Gil Puyat (behind Marcos) and Jose Diokno (extreme right).

Tolentino served as foreign minister from 1984 to 1985.

Flags flew at half-staff around Manila yesterday afternoon.

The Senate tentatively scheduled necrological rites for Thursday.

A renowned authority on the Constitution, a respected lawmaker and a diplomat, Tolentino also had a brief fling with the presidency.

In the summer of 1986, months after the dictator Ferdinand Marcos was forced to flee to Hawaii by the "people power" revolt, Tolentino was proclaimed acting president by hundreds of Marcos loyalists, including soldiers, who had barricaded themselves at the Manila Hotel to install a rebel government.

Ironic twist

When the massive popular support the rebels were expecting failed to materialize, Tolentino agreed to disperse his followers. Then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos punished the mutinous troops by ordering them to do "push-ups."

The Manila Hotel coup gave an ironic twist to the political career of the former bar topnotcher who first joined public service as a congressman in 1947.

A stalwart in the Nacionalista Party, Tolentino—along with fellow Nacionalistas, such as then Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, and Senators Fernando Lopez and Gil Puyat—was a strong contender for the party's nomination as standard-bearer in the 1965 presidential election.

Tolentino's presidential hopes faded when a disgruntled Marcos bolted the Liberal Party and joined the NP.

Marcos wrested the NP nomination from the original NPs and went on to challenge and defeat his former LP party mate, reelectionist President Diosdado Macapagal, in the election.

A year before that, in 1964, Tolentino filed an impeachment case against President Macapagal.

"When the impeachment came up for decision, the House voted against it," Macapagal wrote in his memoirs, "A Stone for the Edifice."

After Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and eventually set up the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) party, Tolentino, like most politicians, jumped on the KBL wagon.

Objections to Imelda

But in 1978, when Marcos urged the KBL to pass a resolution urging him to name his wife, Imelda Marcos, as deputy prime minister, two KBL luminaries strongly objected, seeing the Marcos move as paving the way for Imelda's rise to the highest office in the land.

The two KBL members were Arturo Tolentino and Salvador Laurel.

In 1986, as opposition to his regime mounted, Marcos asked Tolentino to be his running mate in the snap polls that pitted the dictator against the neophyte, Cory Aquino.

Tolentino ran against his former ally, Salvador Laurel.

Shortest-serving veep

The rubber stamp Batasang Pambansa proclaimed Marcos and Tolentino winners of the snap polls.

On Feb. 16 that year, Tolentino took his oath as Vice President in Malacañang before Chief Justice Ramon Aquino. He would later write: "With my oath of office before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, I had qualified and become the full-fledged Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines on Feb. 16, 1986, the first since martial law was declared in 1972."

According to the Office of the Vice President's website, Tolentino is regarded as the country's de facto Vice President for nine days in the tumultuous period of February 1986.

The 1973 Constitution promulgated by Marcos during martial law did not provide for a vice president.

In 1984, the Office of the Vice President was restored through a constitutional amendment.

Tolentino, however, would not have an opportunity to actually exercise the power and authority of the Vice President. The popular belief was that the elections were rigged.

Within a week after Tolentino's oath, the Filipinos rose in indignation and staged a "people power revolution" that brought down the Marcos regime.

Senators' eulogy

Senators called Tolentino the "resident constitutionalist" and hailed him as one of the country's best legal and political minds.

In Senate Resolution No. 79, they praised him for being an "outstanding and brilliant statesman, legal luminary, parliamentarian, scholar, diplomat, law professor, renowned author and public servant."

The resolution noted that Tolentino, who was elected to the Senate for three consecutive terms (1957-1972), had authored and co-authored "landmark legislation."

These included Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Republic Act No. 1079 providing that civil service eligibility shall be permanent, and the law regulating the practice of optometry.

Tolentino served as the 10th Senate President during the Sixth Congress covering the period 1966 to 1967.

"Turing Tolentino was not only brilliant, he was also a man of integrity and principles," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon recalled that when he filed a bill years ago seeking to require all candidates for elected positions to undergo psychiatric tests, it was the former Senate President who told him that his move would be unconstitutional.

Biggest legacy

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Tolentino's biggest legacy was his authorship of the Law of the Sea.

Pimentel said this law had become the "international guideline for the use and protection of the continental shelf demarcation of nations."

The Philippines had benefited much from the law, being an archipelago, Pimentel added.

Sen. Edgardo Angara considers Tolentino to be one of the best civil law experts of the country and "probably the most intelligent Filipino of his generation."

He said Tolentino should have been a president of the country.

"The man was so quiet. He seldom spoke but when he stood, everyone listened," Angara added.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. hailed Tolentino as the "embodiment of a true statesman."

To mourn Tolentino's passing, Manila Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr. ordered all city government offices and public schools to fly their flags at half mast.

"We join the nation in the loss of one of the greatest and sharpest minds Manila has ever had," said Atienza.

Godmother

Tolentino's wife, Constancia, is the godmother of Atienza's first child, former Manila Councilor Kim Atienza, now 37.

"Our families were always on the opposite sides of the political fence. But as a colleague, he was fatherly," said Atienza, who has been a Liberal Party member since he entered politics. ***With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Tarra V. Quismundo and Jerome Aning***

Erap Swiss trip OK for Malacanang

From page A1

"[But] this is better addressed to the sound discretion of the [Sandiganbayan]," Bunye said, reiterating Ms Arroyo's "personal stand."

But government lawyers are up in arms.

Timing 'suspicious'

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio warned that Estrada could be out to seek political asylum, instead of treatment for arthritic knees and back problems.

In a telephone interview, Villa-Ignacio said the timing was suspicious at best.

"FPJ [actor Fernando Poe Jr., defeated presidential candidate] was his last card. He was hoping for a political solution to a legal problem," the lawyer said. "This is his fall-back position."

Estrada is being detained pending resolution of plunder and perjury charges. The country has no extradition agreement with Switzerland, unlike the United States, where the anti-graft court, in December, allowed the ex-President to go.

The famous patient never made the trip, at one point admitting he wanted to help Poe win the election. He also claimed he had difficulty obtaining a US visa and raising more than $1 million, the charges set by American surgeon Christopher Mow.

No way out!

Villa-Ignacio noted that European countries like Switzerland were "liberal" about granting political asylum to disgraced heads of states or suspected communist revolutionaries, like Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

He said that since the prosecution had a "strong case," Estrada might have felt there was no way out but to flee the country. He said the plea for the trip to Bern had come only days before the Aug. 16 deadline for the court-appointed defense lawyers to present their evidence.

Speaking of the defense: Noel Malaya, one of Estrada's four lawyers, said they were only told of the request to travel to Switzerland by their client's wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada.

But in a statement, the former President's personal lawyer, Rolando Ramirez, maintained that Estrada was "no flight risk" and was prepared to defend himself before a "fair and impartial" court.

Chocolates

"It is President Estrada who is seeking the government's guarantee that he would be allowed to return home once he finished his medical treatment," Ramirez said.

But Villa-Ignacio wondered: Wasn't Switzerland better known for Rolex watches, chocolates and its banking system than for medical facilities? "Maybe he will go there to update his [bank account] statement?"

Estrada is accused of acquiring P4.1 billion in cash and assets during his three years in office.

Of late, Ms Arroyo has adopted a policy of compassion for the man she succeeded in office following an uprising. She has said that many poor Filipinos see in Estrada's condition a mirror of their own sufferings. No, of course, she did not mean money problems.

Palace tells judges: Keep hands off ERC's technical power-related cases

From page A1

may not necessarily be in the interest of consumers. Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), the country's biggest power distributor, has been forced to refund its customers about P30 billion after the Supreme Court ruled that it overcharged its customers between 1994 and April 2003.

Last week, the Court of Appeals ordered the ERC to review the petition of Meralco for a 17-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour rate hike that the regulator approved last year.

The court said the ERC had "gravely erred" in approving the rate increase without going through the financial records of Meralco. The court remanded the case to the ERC and ordered the Commission on Audit to go over the books of Meralco.

No more delays

"We cannot afford more delays," said Bunye. "We have to work double time to put in place the necessary structural reforms by attracting investments in the power sector so that every household and industry could enjoy sufficient and reliable electricity today and tomorrow."

But while Malacañang sees the court's decision as undue intervention in the ERC's regulatory work, consumer groups have hailed the court ruling as a victory for Meralco's customers because it prevented what they perceived as a railroading of the power rate increases.

Bunye read from a statement prepared by Energy Secretary Vince Perez who, he said, "was clothed with sufficient authority to act on matters related to the energy sector."

Malacañang has apparently sided with the petition of Meralco for a rate increase although President Macapagal-Arroyo has made the reduction of electricity rates one of her main objectives in the next six years.

Explain oil price increases

Malacañang is also perceived to be siding with oil companies following a deputy presidential spokesperson's statement that a consumer watchdog monitoring oil price increases may be engaged in "guesswork."

Malacañang yesterday said it would require oil companies to first defend their proposed price increases before adjusting their fuel pump meters.

"We are now taking steps to cushion the oil price hikes such as asking oil companies to justify the computation of the proposed price hikes," Bunye said.

Deregulated

But he did not explain how the government could compel oil companies to justify their price increases considering that the industry has been deregulated.

The Palace apparently has heard the appeal of consumers for the government to stop the indiscriminate increase in oil prices.

Consumer groups have complained that oil companies are too quick in raising oil prices when world crude oil prices shoot up but too slow in reducing prices when the world market stabilizes.

Tighter price watch

Aside from demanding an explanation from oil companies, Bunye said the government would further tighten its price watch on basic goods to ensure that traders do not take advantage of the oil price increases by indiscriminately jacking up prices.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo had left it to the Department of Energy to decide on a proposal by Senate President Franklin Drilon for the government to buy back control of Petron Corp. from Saudi Aramco.

Gov't agency turns around, admits Metro air polluted

From page A1

therefore, unhealthy and could cause respiratory illnesses," EMB engineer Cesar Siador said at a press briefing yesterday.

But data furnished the media at the briefing showed that Manila, Mandaluyong, Pasig and Pasay—four cities that form part of the metropolis—passed the acceptable total suspended particulates (TSP) level of 230 per microgram. TSP is a measure of pollution.

The EMB made the turnaround after concerned residents of the metropolis and the media, including the INQUIRER, challenged the findings contained in a press release the bureau issued on July 27.

"The quality of air we breathe in Metro Manila and some parts of adjacent provinces is within the policy standards that safeguards human health and the environment," read the EMB statement.

Gozun orders review

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun has instructed the EMB to review its report, saying that the data released earlier did not include the results of the manually monitored air quality in hot spots like Edsa, Rizal Avenue and Taft Avenue.

"Admittedly, this fact should have been emphasized in the press release. Secretary Gozun urged all DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) officials to carefully present all facts, including limitations when they issue official reports about the environment, in order to avoid misinterpretation," a DENR statement said.

The EMB, which is headed by Julian Amador, is an agency under the DENR.

Gozun said the EMB report released last week cited the "data from eight monitoring stations for the ambient air in the airshed, which measures many pollutants but not total suspended particles."

Exceeds acceptable levels

Siador, who was the only EMB official present at the press briefing, said Makati, Quezon City and Valenzuela failed the EMB monthly air quality monitoring in July.

The data the EMB presented yesterday showed that ambient air quality over Makati, Quezon City and Valenzuela exceeded the acceptable level of 230 TSP/microgram.

Siador said the results were based on data gathered from eight new air quality monitoring stations across Manila.

Hot spots

Siador noted that these cities were to be considered "hot spots" and that stricter rules and monitoring for vehicle smoke-belchers and industrial fumes should be imposed.

In Makati City, the TSP was 270. On Congressional Avenue in Quezon City the TSP was 290 and in Valenzuela it was 260. The acceptable TSP level is 230.

Aside from the huge volume of traffic plying these cities (at least 15,000 vehicles), factories have also contributed to the pollution, according to Siador.

The weather also has a significant impact on the levels of pollution in urban areas, according to Siador.

"The monsoon rains definitely clear our air. The humid weather induces a dirtier air," he noted.

Siador's team based its reports on the monthly data collected by the ambient air quality monitoring stations placed in specific locations within Metro Manila and some parts of Regions 3 and 4.

For more accurate data

He said there should be additional monitoring stations for a more accurate data but at least P100 million would have to be acquired.

The existing eight monitoring stations were put up through a loan from the Asian Development Bank. The stations are located in Ateneo-Katipunan, Fort Bonifacio, PUP-Sta. Mesa, Valenzuela, Cavite, Los Baños, Batangas and the Clark Economic Zone.

Chained like an animal, girl, 14, sues parents

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A 14-year-old girl from Don Salvador Benedicto town here is suing her parents for treating her "like an animal" and leaving her chained to a post for a year.

Maria (not her real name) fled her home in Purok Maisan, Barangay Bunga a week ago and alerted police to her plight.

Her right ankle was scarred and callused from a 1.2-meter metal chain put on her, social workers said.

Maria told reporters her parents had chained her up for more than a year for playing truant and to prevent her from spending time with boys.

The girl, accompanied by police and provincial authorities had a confrontation with her parents at the municipal hall on Monday.

Her 54-year-old father, Teodoro Librando, said "it was better to (keep her chained) than to keep beating her up. That would be more painful for both her and us parents."

Her mother begged her for forgiveness, telling her that sending them to jail, as the girl wanted, would be "like killing us and your brothers and sisters."

Treated like an animal

Maria, who spoke to reporters with her face covered by a towel, said she could not forgive her parents for "treating me like an animal."

Maria, who is under the custody of the municipal social welfare and development office (MSWDO), intends to file charges against her parents for violating Republic Act 7610, or the Child Abuse Law.

Physical injury with illegal detention is punishable by life imprisonment or death.

Maria said she was placed in a corner and fed like a dog, while a long metal chain was attached to her right foot.

Her mother, three sisters and a brother cried and pleaded with her but she turned down their appeal not to file charges.

The father explained that he only wanted to stop his daughter skipping classes at the Bunga Elementary School and teach her to keep away from boys.

He said he had repeatedly warned her to avoid boys and focus on her studies but she would not obey.

He said he decided to put his daughter in chains because he was afraid she would become pregnant, or end up being raped or killed like a woman from a neighboring village.

The mother said it was painful for her to see her daughter chained but it was for Maria's own good.

She said she knew that beating her was a violation of the law but putting her in chains was not.

Maria claimed she stopped going to school last year when she was in fifth grade because her parents prevented her from doing so.

She said that of her 18 siblings, she was the only one being maltreated.

She has four half-siblings from her father's first marriage and 13 with her mother.

Maria said she first left home in 2002 because she said she could no longer bear the treatment she was receiving from her mother who would allegedly bang her head on the wall or punch and pinch her every time she made a mistake.

Shaved

But her father found her the next day and took her back. He then beat her and shaved her hair.

She made another attempt to escape in June 2003. This time, her father chained her. He also threatened to bury her alive in a pit that he dug near their hut.

She said her mother did nothing to defend her. The mother even agreed with her father's idea of chaining her, she said.

Maria was freed recently so she could help with the household chores but the shackles remained on her right foot.

At about noon of July 23, Maria was freed and asked to get some pig feed.

Holding her chains, the girl ran until she reached a cave located several kilometers from her house where she stayed there for two days and two nights. She survived by eating wild bananas.

She left the cave and walked until she reached a house where she stayed for one night.

Early on July 27, she started walking until she reached a house in Barangay Quezon, San Carlos City where she stayed for another two days and two nights.

Emotionally strong

The owner of the house took pity on her and informed barangay councilor Johnny Pedrosa about her. She was immediately referred to the MSWDO and the police. The report reached the office of Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz.

Milagros de los Reyes of the MSWDO, said the girl was now undergoing psychiatric testing to determine the psychological effects of her experience.

She said Maria was very strong emotionally and resilient but she has developed a hatred for her parents.

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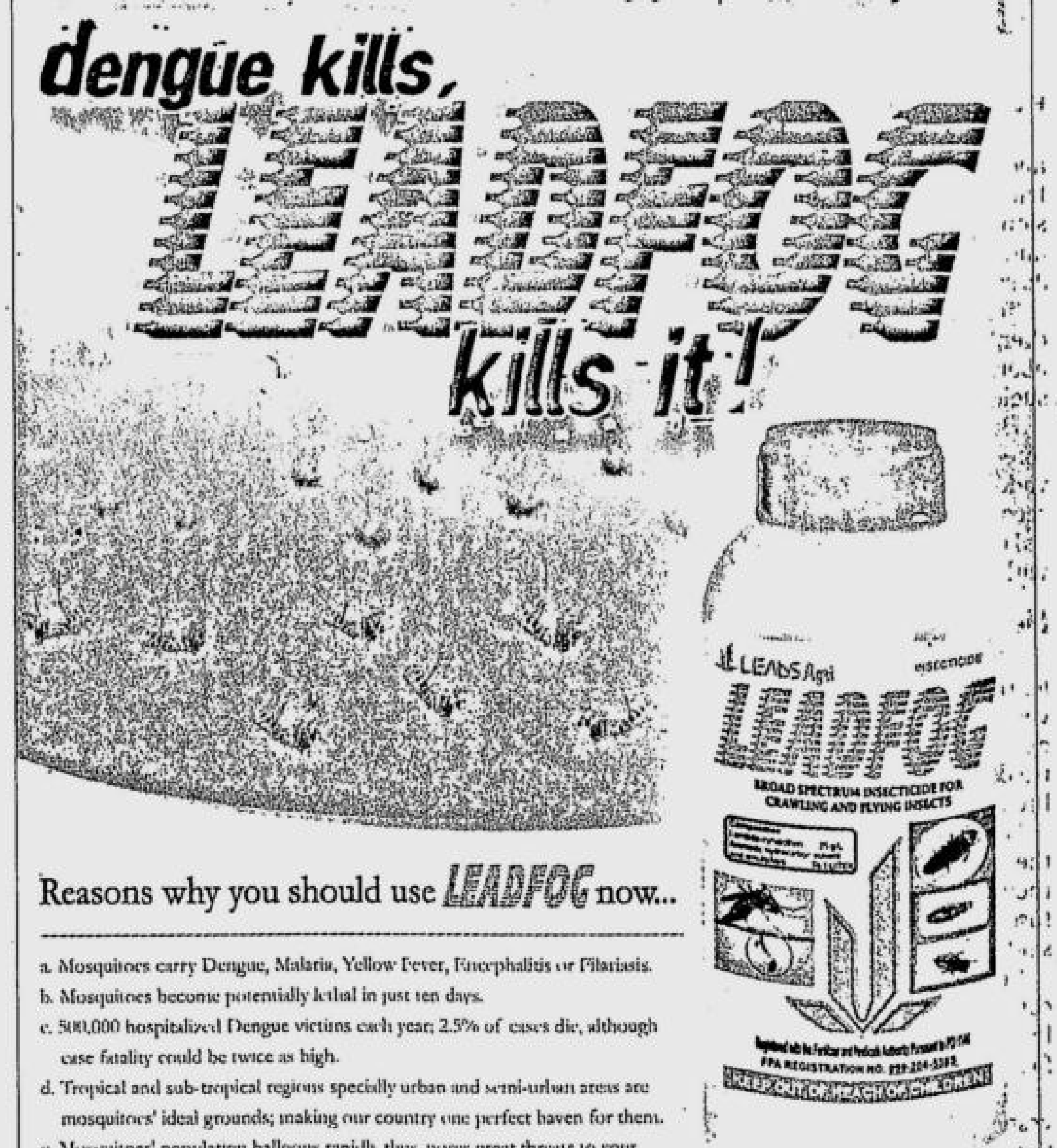
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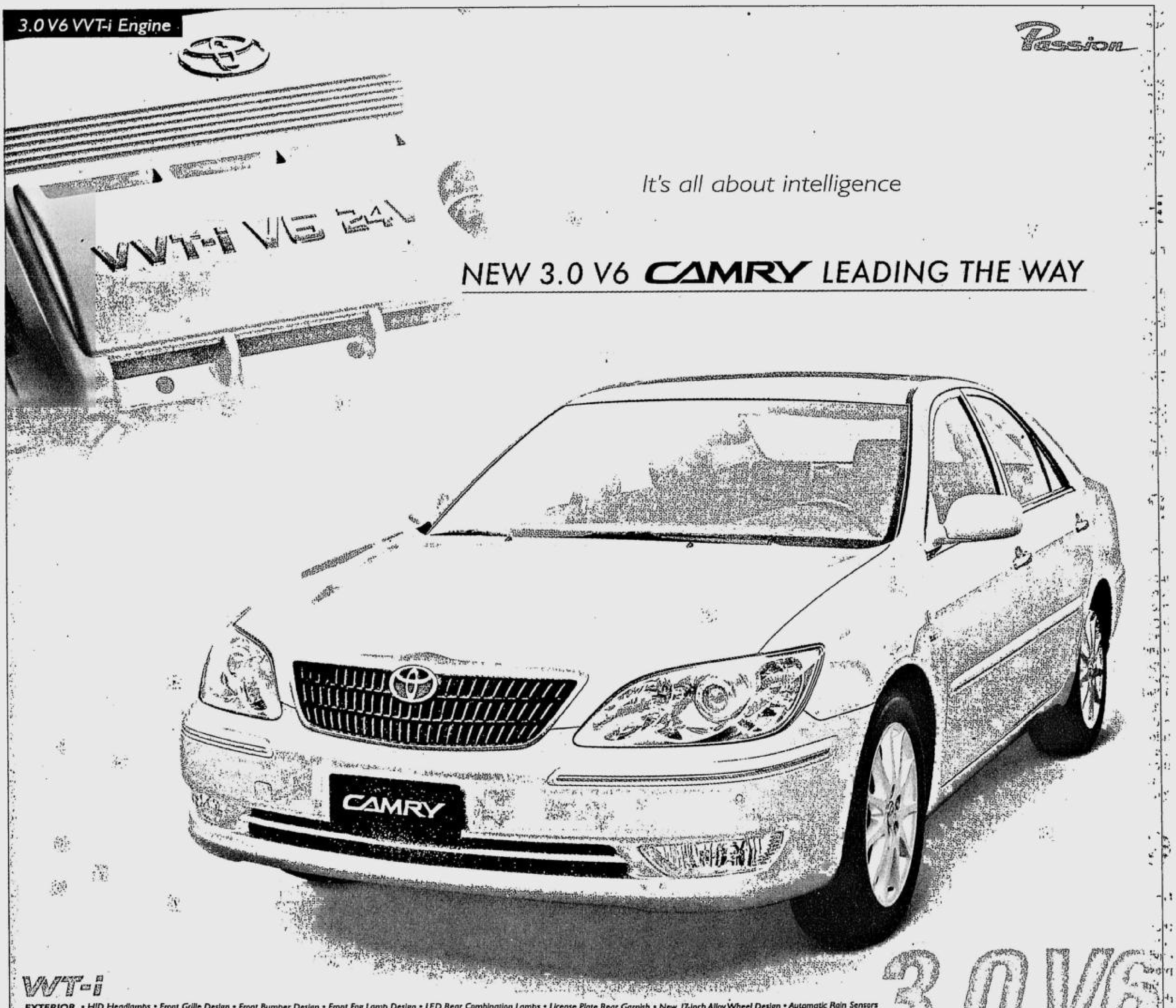

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TOYOTA

TOURISM Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan with Liga ng mga Barangay president James Marty Lim: Developing a "culture of tourism."

Tourism goes grassroots

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism (DOT) has tapped the barangays to push its "Ganda ng Pilipinas, Galing ng Pilipino" (GP2) Project at grassroots level.

The agreement for the nationwide project was reached recently between the DOT and the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas through its television program "I-Barangay Mo!" which was launched at the Fontana Leisure Parks Convention Center in Clark, Pampanga.

The GP2 Project instructs the barangay officials and all barangay residents on how to promote tourism at their level via an extensive information campaign. Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan said it is the expression of the DOT's vision for the country to become the premier Asian destination.

It's key strategy is to promote the "Culture of Tourism" in every Filipino, he added. The DOT and the Liga aim to cultivate this culture at the barangay level.

"This entails changing the mind-set of how the common people perceive and receive tourism," Liga ng mga Barangay president James Marty Lim noted.

The DOT has also tied up with the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and the Philippine Information Agency for project. A courtesy campaign has already been launched at all international ports of entry for all frontliners.

TIT FOR TAT

Chavez hits back at Mike A

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HE will not be silenced by a lawsuit, said defeated senatorial candidate Frank Chavez who filed perjury charges against First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo at the Manila prosecutors office yesterday as the First Couple marked their 36th wedding anniversary.

"He cannot cow people into submission by threatening them with libel suits. The question is, if a person has himself badly damaged his reputation, should he blame it on others? Does he have the personality to sue for libel?" said Chavez, a former solicitor general.

Chavez, who ran for senator under the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa party of former Education Secretary Raul Roco, said he was filing the charges to make Arroyo answer for the libel suit the latter had filed against Chavez.

Arroyo's suit against Chavez stemmed from the latter's statements that were published in the INQUIRER on May 28, 2004.

In the front-page story titled "Chavez names 4 'runners,'" Chavez alleged that Arroyo had a supposed "bag man" in the agriculture department whose job was to funnel P728 million in government funds into the campaign of his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Chavez said Arroyo's several denials contained in his libel suit were "brazen lies."

Chavez claimed to have witnesses from Kitaotao, Bukidnon, who alleged that Arroyo had been in the province a few days before the May 10 elections.

"We have affiants saying that on May 7, Mike Arroyo, flew in by chopper with (Bukidnon representative) Miguel Zubiri, and openly campaigned before barangay and municipal officials promising P1 million worth of projects per barangay, provided that they vote for his wife, and straight for the K4 (administration coalition)," he said.

In his libel suit, Arroyo denied having any connections in the agriculture department. But Chavez said the First Gentleman was "good friends" with Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, and even allegedly "pushed for (Bolante's) appointment."

Chavez also countered Arroyo's statement that he "always shunned even the slightest hint of involvement in government affairs."

"Remember the Pagcor (the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.) celebration of his birthday? What the hell was it doing there at the party of Miguel Arroyo, inviting 1,700 guests. At P1,000 per plate, how much was that? Who paid for the party?" said Chavez.

Chavez was among the respondents in the five separate libel suits that Arroyo filed on June 4.

Arroyo also sued former senator Francisco Tatad; Lito Banayo, the publicist of Sen. Panfilo Lacson; and the editorial staff and reporters of Newsbreak magazine and the Malaya newspaper for publishing allegedly malicious stories and columns accusing him of corruption and election fraud.

Arroyo filed another libel suit against Tatad and the editorial staff of the Daily Tribune on June 8 for statements alleging Arroyo's involvement in election cheating.

On Monday, Arroyo filed two more libel suits: one against news website INQ7.net columnist William Esposo and a second case against the editors of Malaya.

To date, Arroyo has filed eight libel charges this year in Manila, with damages and attorney's fees worth P11 million each, or a total of P88 million.

"He said I am just doing this for the press and I don't want to vanish into oblivion. I have been doing this for the past 34 years, fighting for truth and honest public service. Press or no press, Mike Arroyo or no Mike Arroyo," said Chavez.

NFA chief elated by anti-graft clearance

NATIONAL Food Authority chair and incoming agriculture secretary Arthur Yap yesterday said he was gratified at hurdling the lifestyle check conducted on him by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and expressed confidence that he would similarly be cleared of his pending graft case before the Ombudsman.

The PAGC had issued a certification clearing Yap of graft charges filed by unnamed "disgruntled" NFA employees displaced by administrative reforms he instituted.

"The PAGC clearance confirms the fact that the administrative reforms we have set in the NFA were well intended. This removes all doubts on the rationale and the manner by which the needed reforms were implemented," Yap said in a press statement.

He said the charges were filed to block his appointment as agriculture secretary.

The PAGC cleared Yap along with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who was cleared of the charge that he violated anti-graft laws for allegedly constructing a mansion. Bunye said he and Yap were victims of anonymous complaints filed before the PAGC which investigated the cases without the officials' knowledge.

Yap expressed the hope the Ombudsman would similarly clear him of the graft charges filed by Marlene Esperat in connection with the alleged juggling and realignment of P432 million in NFA funds to procure fertilizer.

"The baseless and malicious nature of the case warrants its dismissal. The charges were part of the orchestrated demolition job to destroy my reputation as a government official," Yap said.

Yap said the total amount was not even P432 million as claimed by Esperat, but P200 million transferred to NFA through a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Agriculture and NFA.

Of the P200-million procurement funds, only P93.8 million was used to buy fertilizer, and the balance was liquidated to the DA. The awards were properly conducted and the NFA worked hard to ensure that only the price was most advantageous to the government, said Yap.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 4, 2004
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 31:1-7
Gospel: Mt 15:21-28

Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Now a Canaanite woman came from those borders and began to cry out, "Lord, Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her, not even a word. So his disciples approached him and said, "Send her away: see how she is shouting after us."

Then Jesus said to her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the nation of Israel."

But the woman was already kneeling before Jesus and said, "Sir, help me!" Jesus answered, "It is not right to take the bread from the children and throw it to the little dogs." The woman replied, "It is true, sir, but even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said, "Woman, how great is your faith! Let it be as you wish." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Commentary

Here is a little of what Johann Tauler (1300-1361) said about this passage, "Our Lord behaved harshly and scornfully on this occasion. He not only denied her right to food, which everyone needs, but He even said that she was not a child, not a human being; and He called her a dog. How could He tempt and try her like this, driving her and harassing her? But see what she did, hard-pressed as she was. She endured His driving and drove herself further even than He could drive her, into the depths and beyond them into the abyss... 'Oh, Lord,' she said, 'but it can still happen that the little dogs are fed with the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table.'

Oh, children, if only we could all have this real insight into the depths of truth; not through learned explanations, not through words; not through our senses at all, but in the very depths of our soul! We would know then that neither God nor all His creatures can so oppress and abase us that we cannot sink still more deeply into the truth... My children, if we could understand that everything depends on this, we should have grasped a vital truth.

This is the only way that leads us straight to God without any intermediary... This is why our Lord replied to her: 'Woman, your faith is great. Let it be with you as you believe.' Truly, anyone who shares her attitude and her approach to God will be given the same answer."

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)—Authority of the Ombudsman—The Constitution, Section 15 of the Ombudsman Act of 1989 and Section 4 of the Sandiganbayan Law, as amended, do not give to the Ombudsman exclusive jurisdiction to investigate offenses committed by public officers or employees. The authority of the Ombudsman to investigate offenses involving public officers or employees is concurrent with other government investigating agencies such as provincial, city and state prosecutors. However, the Ombudsman, in the exercise of its primary jurisdiction over cases cognizable by the Sandiganbayan, may take over, at any stage, from any investigating agency of the government, the investigation of such cases. In other words, respondent DOJ Panel is not precluded from conducting any investigation of cases against public officers involving violations of penal laws but if the cases fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan, then respondent Ombudsman may, in the exercise of its primary jurisdiction take over at any stage. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Austria-Martinez, Honasan vs Panel of Investigating Prosecutors of the Department of Justice, G.R. No. 159747]

BY R. B. VERA

Del Rosario staying as RP envoy to US

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has extended the tour of duty of Philippine Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario up to the end of the year, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

"He's still there, he's doing a good job," Bunye said of Del Rosario who was previously reported as having exited the country's most important diplomatic post.

The President last month awarded Del Rosario the Sikatuna Award as recognition of his service.

But Bunye said Del Rosario has been "prevailed upon" to stay put up to December. He earlier said that the President has not decided to appoint a replacement.

He said Del Rosario only wants to return to Manila to visit his ailing mother Amparo.

Bunye said the President was not leaving the Philippine Embassy in Washington without an ambassador.

The government is seeking to repair diplomatic ties with the US that have been strained by Ms Arroyo's decision to withdraw the Philippine contingent in Iraq a month ahead of schedule.

The President gave in to the demands of Iraqi militants who threatened to behead Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz if she did not pull out all Filipino troops in Iraq.

"We never doubted the steadiness and firmness of the strategic partnership of the Philippines and the United States," Bunye said in a statement.

"The bridge of understanding and solidarity between Americans and Filipinos has been built through more than a century and has withstood the test of time," he said. "It will continue to stand as a platform of our common fight against terror and for the defense of democracy."

RP to hale Australia to WTO in banana row

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs yesterday said the Philippines was ready to push before the World Trade Organization its complaint against Australia for allegedly continuing to block Philippine banana exports for the past 15 years.

In a press briefing, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Edsel Custodio said Australia recently offered a new scheme to evaluate the quality of Philippine banana exports.

"We are hoping there would be things that we could discuss that are available for some compromise," he said, referring to talks between the two countries that have been going on for more than four years.

Manila claims that Australia was unfairly using its quarantine laws to keep out the fruit. It contends that the quarantine laws were a de facto trade barrier, which is in violation of WTO rules.

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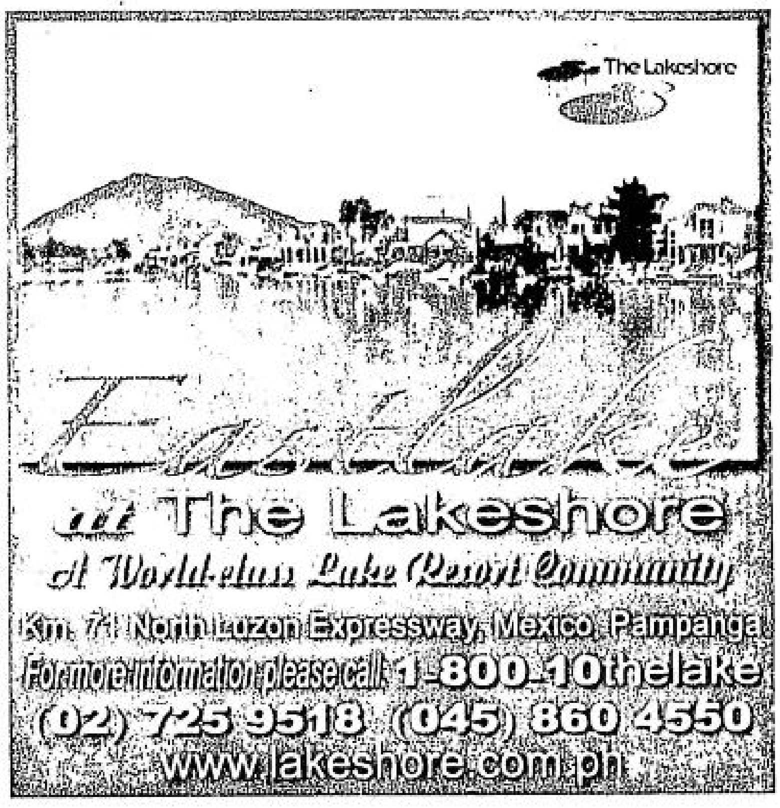

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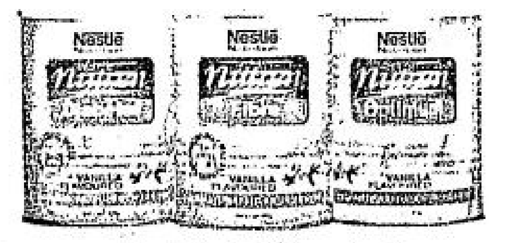

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[1] Walzem, R.L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German. Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:353, 2002.

[2] Heuter A. Cancer Res 1991:54(5):1969-1975.

At 19, Fil-Am youngest Harvard law graduate

PROUD parents, of course, but it grossly understates the pride of Theresa and Enrico Camara.

KIWICAMARA.COM

JUST a regular guy achiever who also received at his Harvard Law School graduation the Brudney Prize for his thesis on shareholder voting in corporate law.

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From page A1

In September, he will clerk for Court of Appeals Judge Harris Hartz of the 10th Circuit, easing his transition from the academe to professional practice. The position is one of prestige: Recent law graduates turn down six-figure annual salaries in private firms to work for government at $48,000.

'Reason moved by passion'

Hartz, a Harvard alumnus himself, has jurisdiction over the southwestern states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Kansas, Eastern Oklahoma, Western Oklahoma, Northern Oklahoma, and New Mexico—where he keeps chambers in Albuquerque.

Kiwi explained: "Most people would go into law practice [straight from] school, but some take clerkships to immerse themselves in general practice and acquire experience in a variety of cases. Working for a federal judge is really a great way to get exposed to high-quality legal arguments."

He speaks with as much humor and easy confidence as maturity, depth and authority. He exudes the seriousness of purpose of a Jack McCoy but does not mind quoting the movie character Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde" to define law as "reason moved by passion."

'Normal' family

Kiwi's childhood was as "normal" as possible under the circumstances, according to his parents who are both doctors. Enrico, a psychiatrist, and Theresa, a rheumatologist, raised their only child in a nurturing environment with the proper blend of caring, attention and material support.

"Intellectually, he has always been precocious," said the boy's uncle Jorge Camara, a prominent ophthalmologist in Hawaii. "His teachers noticed his remarkable maturity. His parents encouraged it, [but] didn't make him feel unusual."

That Kiwi comes from a family of achievers may partly explain his exceptional abilities. The Camaras of Iba, Zambales, are a clan of medical professionals. His grandfather Augusto has a cardiology practice at Makati Medical Center that spans many decades. Aside from a psychiatrist and an ophthalmologist, Augusto's 12 children also include an allergist, an orthodontist, a chiropractor and a cardiologist.

Grandpa summa cum laude

"My father graduated summa cum laude from the University of the Philippines with an average of 1.06, the highest [ever recorded]," Jorge noted.

Theresa—from the Danaos of Bulacan—was also a summa cum laude. She and Enrico met and dated at UP.

Kiwi himself does not try to explain his "gift." He believes his family to be just like any other. As a kid, although he had a computer, he mostly played with children his age. In time, though, Jorge did notice that the boy was associating more with adults than with his peers.

That conversation about stock market investor Warren Buffet took place between Kiwi and a friend of Jorge's.

Ballroom dancer

Today, Kiwi plays tennis, golf and racquetball. He has a passion for ballroom dancing, and has won numerous awards for the Harvard-Radcliffe Ballroom Dance Team.

"I've seen him dance—he's amazing" said another uncle, Dr. Martin Camara, a chiropractor and also director of the Philippine Institute of Traditional Health Care under the Department of Health. "You'd think he'd have terrible social skills, being so gifted, but no, he has excellent people skills."

On the other hand, Kiwi is an avid reader of academic-type, legal, and scientific literature, and is a member of Mensa, the international society of certified geniuses.

A year after Kiwi was born, the family moved to Cleveland. The boy attended Ratner Academy, a Jewish school, where his ability to use complex words and his reading discipline—he finished all book assignments before school closed each summer—set him apart from the other students.

When the couple decided to transfer their practice to Honolulu and moved there in 1991, Kiwi went to Punahou School to finish the remainder of his elementary years.

Record-shattering scores

In his new environment—the weather was better, he said—Kiwi excelled once more as a student, registering a record-shattering score in his scholastic aptitude test.

He was given the option to skip high school and take early college courses at the Hawaii Pacific University. Thus he took the leap from eighth grade to college.

His parents were not so sure it was a good idea. One of their concerns was that Kiwi would be missing the social interaction in high school, which they believed was an important phase.

"Technically, he would be a high school dropout," Theresa told the Honolulu Advertiser at the time.

Enrico told the INQUIRER: "To me as a parent it was a difficult decision because academics aren't the only things you learn in high school. There's overall character development, social and emotional development."

Why Harvard

But as usual, they let Kiwi decide. "We have always trusted his judgment," Enrico said.

By 16, Kiwi had an undergraduate degree in computer science from HPU. Moving on to law school, he chose Harvard over Yale and the University of Pennsylvania. He explained: "Harvard is the oldest and most respected. It also has much larger range of programs, and a bigger faculty that is strong in my main area of interest, corporate law. It's a nice place with genuinely nice people."

Hooked on law

"He was the youngest [on record] to enter law school when he did, so it's not unreasonable to believe he's the youngest to graduate," Harvard spokesperson Michael Rodman told the INQUIRER.

Kiwi said he had been drawn to the course by a subject in constitutional law that he had taken in HPU. What he learned from Prof. Sandy Muir of Berkeley, he complemented with readings on law and social institutions. He was, moreover, "hooked on the discipline."

He finds corporate law "most interesting," he said. "It has practical importance in the structuring of business transactions, and it is crucial to the economy." It is a field that would be "fun to explore" in practice, Kiwi said, except that he would rather teach.

Self-expression

Jorge believes his nephew chose law over medicine as a form of self-expression. "He's an only child, and some kids tend to want to be in a field apart from that of his parents," he said.

When Kiwi graduated from Harvard, his maternal grandparents, Francisco and Norma Danao flew over for the celebration.

"I felt like I was floating," Norma told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I was very, very proud."

Bar exams

Asked about the bar exams, Kiwi sounded like any other new, young, and hopeful graduate: "I hope to pass," he simply said, quite obviously not realizing the irony of such a statement. *With PDI Research*

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

In the past few days, my sisters, **Grace Guy Cheu, Geraldine G. Guy** and **Gladys Guy Yao**, have been coming out in the media portraying me as a villain and ostensibly looking for my father, Francisco Guy Co Chia, who was allegedly "*kidnapped*" by me, and that they "*did not know why Gilbert would hide their father from them*" and that they are "*not aware of any feud between them and their brother.*"

What my sisters are deliberately hiding from the public, whose sympathy they are obviously seeking, are the following **FACTS**:

1. For more than **twenty (20) years** now, my father and I have been living together in our house at Greenmeadows, Quezon City. My sisters, together with my mother, migrated to Canada sometime in early 1970's and they all acquired Canadian citizenship: **Grace** is a holder of Canadian Passport No. PC522476 issued on 17 September 2002; **Geraldine** is a holder of Canadian Passport No. PC407655 issued on May 10, 2001; and **Gladys** is a holder of Canadian Passport No. BC231317 issued on February 11, 2004. They only returned to the Philippines, on different dates, a few years ago.

2. While they were away in Canada fully supported by our father and I, our father and I were working hard together to build Northern Islands Company, Inc. ("Company") to what it is now. My father, mindful of my great contributions to the success of the Company, compensated me with option to buy his stocks which I exercised more than eighteen (18) years ago, with the full knowledge and consent of my sisters and mother.

3. When my sisters visited the Philippines, they saw that the once fledgling trading Company has now grown into a very successful manufacturing company with me at the helm, although my father remained the President and Chief Executive Officer until recently.

4. On March 3, 2004 at around 5:00 p.m., my sisters, accompanied by at least ten (10) heavily armed policemen, went to my house in the guise of "liberating" our father who is allegedly being illegally detained by me despite the fact that our father (together with our mother) has been living with me for more than 20 years already. With the assistance of heavily armed policemen, my sisters succeeded in taking along our father, who is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, to the house of my sister Grace which is located only several meters away in the same street of our subdivision. To my surprise, at around 10:30 p.m. of the **same day**, my sister Grace **returned** our father to my house thereby betraying their announced intention to "liberate" our father from me. I subsequently learned that, while in Grace's house, our father was made to sign by my sisters and their lawyer numerous prepared documents. That explained why after going through the trouble of forcibly taking our father away from me, they as hastily returned him to my care on the very **same day**. Having achieved their evil purpose, they have **no more need** for our father, **or so they thought at that time.**

Now, here they come again ostensibly looking for our father as they are allegedly "missing" him.

5. On March 5, 2004 (Friday) at around 2:30 p.m, my sisters, without warning, entered the offices of the Company at Libis, Quezon City and declared themselves to be the new owners and officers of the Company and that they are completely taking over control of the Company. My sisters initially succeeded in forcibly and fraudulently taking control of the Company, and during their four- month "take over" of the Company, they lost no time in **looting** and **embezzling** the funds of the Company by diverting the funds to their own **personal** and **fictitious** bank accounts. An audit of the stolen funds is still ongoing.

6. On July 15, 2004, when the Sheriff of RTC-Manila, Br. 46 served the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against my sisters to re-install me to my rightful position in the Company, they locked themselves inside the office to prevent implementation of the TRO. They also succeeded in misleading a TV station in believing that they were being "*illegally detained*" by me inside the office. To unmask them, I invited some media men to see for themselves whether they were really being detained. The tri-media coverage exposed their lies. Here was a clear case of my sisters defying the TRO by locking themselves in the office. Due to their open defiance, an Order to "break-open" had to be issued to uphold the law and the lawful order of the Court.

7. I am now restored to my rightful and lawful position in the Company, as the President and majority stockholder.

Contrary to my sisters' statement that they have no knowledge of any "*feud between them and their brother*", there are in fact no less than **SIX (6) CASES** pending since March of this year in different courts and administrative bodies, namely:

(1) ***"Lincoln Continental Dev. Co., Inc. vs. Northern Islands Co., Inc., et.al."***, RTC-Manila, Br. 46, Civil Case No. 04-109444; *Status:* On July 30, 2004, the Court issued a "*Status Quo*" Order, meaning, that I remain in control of the Company pending resolution of the issues.

(2) ***"In the Matter of the Petition for the Habeas Corpus of Francisco Guy Co Chia; Simny Gaw Guy and Grace G. Cheu, Petitioners"***, RTC-Quezon City, Br. 77, Sp. Proc. No. Q-04-52079; *Status*: In a Decision dated 25 June 2004, the Court **DISMISSED** the Habeas Corpus case for **Lack of Merit**. Their subsequent Motion for Reconsideration and Suplemental Motion for Reconsideration were **DENIED** in the Order dated 21 July 2004.

(3) ***"National Bureau of Investigation vs. Simny G. Guy, Grace G. Cheu, Geraldine G. Guy, Gladys G. Yao & Emilia Tabugadir"***, For: Falsification; Office of the City Prosecutor of Quezon City, I.S. No. 04-8344; *Status:* Hearing reset to 19 August 2004 for submission of my sisters' Counter Affidavit.

(4) ***"In Re: Deportation case against: Grace Guy Cheu (DOB: 01 September 1957), Geraldine Guy (DOB: 01 May 1954)"***, Bureau of Immigration, D.C. OC-STF-04-04/16-1343; *Status:* Charge Sheet was already filed against my sisters.

(5) ***"Geraldine Gaw Guy, et al. vs. Honorable Board of Commissioners of the Bureau of Immigration, et al."*** RTC-Manila, Br. 37, Civil Case No. 04-110179. *Status*: The Court issued a writ of preliminary mandatory injunction against the Bureau of Immigration.

(6) ***"In the Matter of the Petition for the Guardianship of Francisco Guy Co Chia; Gilbert G. Guy, Petitioner"***. RTC-Quezon City, Br. 222, Sp. Proc. No. Q-04-52129. *Status*: Initial conference with the parties already held.

However, the constant and persistent media attacks against me by my misguided sisters leave me no option but to resort to this means to defend my **HONOR** and in the interest of the **TRUTH**.

This "sibling feud" which my sisters insist on bringing to public attention is a purely **family** matter. This does not concern the general public so as to necessitate constant and persistent press releases. Moreover, the above matters are now in the proper courts and administrative bodies concerned. All issues should be ventilated and resolved in said courts and administrative bodies.

I, therefore, appeal to my sisters to please leave our dear Papa alone and accord him the honor and dignity he richly deserves.

GILBERT G. GUY
President
Northern Islands Company, Inc.

Anti-corruption roadmap drafted

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has drawn a "roadmap" for the fight against corruption and vowed to personally lead the campaign to eliminate the scourge.

Ms Arroyo wants to emulate Hong Kong, which she noted was considered one of Asia's most corrupt 30 years ago but has now emerged to be the second least corrupt.

Ms Arroyo's anti-corruption roadmap includes enforcing anti-graft laws and lifestyle checks, downsizing the government bureaucracy and "inculcating" values in schools and in the government institutions through the Presidential Commission on Values Formation.

"I will chair it myself," Ms Arroyo said of the PCVF during yesterday's meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council where she presented her anti-corruption program.

Explaining why, Bunye said: "This is a very important agenda, she feels that the fight against corruption merits her personal attention."

Ms Arroyo created the PCVF through Executive Order 314 issued on April 30, wherein she wants to appoint a presidential adviser as chair of the commission. But she revised the composition in EO 317 issued July 5, saying she would be the chair and would appoint 10 members whose terms would be co-terminus with her.

Moral governance

Ms Arroyo wants the commission to "institutionalize just and moral governance" by designing and implementing programs to inculcate the values of honesty, modesty, integrity and good work ethics in the bureaucracy as well as file criminal complaints against "incorrigible and undesirable government personnel."

The President told the Ledac, composed of congressional leaders and Cabinet officials, that she invited "high-profile" religious leaders to join her in the PCVF, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Ms Arroyo mentioned Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Philippine Council for Evangelical Churches Bishop Efraim Tendero, Jesus Is Lord leader and losing presidential candidate Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" Villanueva, Iglesia ni Cristo deputy executive minister Eduardo Manalo, El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde and Jesus Miracle Crusade's Pastor Apollo Quiboloy.

Bunye could not say if the religious leaders accepted the invitation but said they are "perceived to be very effective as far as pushing this agenda is concerned."

The INQUIRER reported over the weekend that Rosales has accepted the President's invitation when they talked last Wednesday. But Velarde appears cold to the idea, as far as his spokesperson Mel Robles knows.

Integrated approach

"The President feels that we have to come up with an integrated approach," Bunye said. "If you want to solve the problem of corruption which has been with us for a long time and you cannot solve it by just enforcement of laws, improve the systems. You really have to improve the orientation of people who would be running the system."

Bunye said the President presented her anti-corruption program in her second Ledac meeting since delivering her State of the Nation Address last July 26. It was the second in Ms Arroyo's five-point reform package she wants Congress to support.

Bunye said Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, head of the Transparency Group which conducts lifestyle checks, presented the "Roadmap for the campaign against corruption" while Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin discussed the planned government re-engineering.

In the roadmap, corruption was identified as "one of the biggest obstacles to economic development and poverty reduction," a major concern of the people and one of the oft-repeated arguments against new taxes. The Philippines is perceived to be the fourth most corrupt country in Asia.

The Arroyo administration wants to transform, through legislation, the Office of the Ombudsman into the model of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Lawyer nabbed for bribery try

By Tina Santos

FOR ALLEGEDLY trying to bribe a public official, lawyer Oliver Lozano was arrested by members of the Central Police District inside a Quezon City hotel yesterday morning.

Armed with a warrant of arrest issued by Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Angeline Mary Quimpo, Lozano, a known Marcos loyalist, was nabbed around 1:30 p.m. inside Sulu Hotel.

The issuance of a warrant against Lozano was in connection with the charges of attempted corruption of a public official recently filed by Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) operative PO1 Anjo Villanueva, police said.

Lozano was arrested by the members of CPD Warrant Section led by SPO1 Vivencio Roque while he was having a meeting with his clients.

Lozano immediately posted bail worth P18,000 for his provisional liberty, police said.

However, in a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Lozano denied that such incident occurred saying those were just "rumors."

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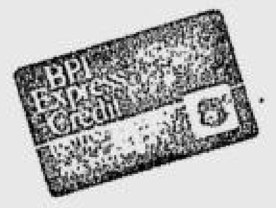

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Documents from Pakistani trigger alert

WASHINGTON—The detailed surveillance photos and documents that prompted higher terror warnings came largely from a Pakistani computer engineer whose capture set Pakistani and US officials searching for those planning to harm America, and what they intend to do.

In the 72 hours leading up to Sunday's warning about new risks of terror attacks, senior officials pored over a wealth of detailed new information indicating al-Qaida operatives were collecting chillingly precise information about five financial services buildings in the United States.

The trove of hundreds of photos, sketches and written documents came to light as a result of Pakistan's mid-July capture of Muslim extremist Mohammad Naeem Noor Khan, also known as Abu Talha.

Officials are now following investigative leads, as they try to learn more about possible plots against the apparent targets: The Citigroup Center building and the New York Stock Exchange in New York, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington and Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark, New Jersey.

The information amassed by the plotters "was gathered in 2000 and 2001," and "it appears that some of it may have been updated as recently as January of this year," Frances Townsend, the White House homeland security adviser, said on PBS' "NewsHour With Jim Lehrer."

But, she added, "you can't tell from the intelligence itself whether or not those individuals (who amassed it) are still here."

At a news conference earlier Monday, Townsend denied that political considerations affected the timing of the intelligence disclosures, which came the week after Democrats nominated John Kerry as their presidential candidate. "It had nothing to do with the Democratic National Convention," she said.

On Monday, a Pakistani intelligence official said Khan, a computer and communications expert, had sent messages to suspected al-Qaida members using code words—a practice typical of the international jihadist organization that bedeviled US efforts to unravel the Sept. 11, 2001, plot. But the Pakistani official refused to say if Khan was part of al-Qaida.

Khan's information has been merged with other pieces of intelligence, including information gleaned after Pakistan's arrest last month of a senior al-Qaida operative named Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani.

E-mails that included plans for new attacks in Great Britain and the United States were found on the computer of the captured Ghailani, Pakistan's information minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said Monday.

But it was Khan and the information found after his arrest that was mostly behind the decision to raise the government's terror alert for the financial services buildings in New York, Washington and northern New Jersey—to orange, or high alert. *AP*

Security tightened at US financial centers

NEW YORK—Black-clad police armed with assault rifles moved in to protect America's financial centers on Monday after warnings that al-Qaida bombers might strike, and New Yorkers vowed not to be defeated by terrorists.

A day after US Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge put New York, Washington and other money centers on a code Orange, or "High" alert for attack—the nation's second highest level of readiness—security was visibly stepped up.

Unlike previous alerts, this one specifically mentioned buildings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, Citigroup and the New York Stock Exchange in New York and Prudential Financial in New Jersey as being at risk.

The latest threat is aimed squarely at the heart of the capitalist system—Citigroup is the worlds's largest financial services firm, the NYSE the world's biggest stock exchange, Prudential is a major insurance firm and the IMF and World Bank are used to head off global economic crises.

Clad in body armor and wielding rifles, police guarded sites in New York, where almost 2,800 people were killed in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks that brought down the World Trade Center. This time officers were on alert for possible truck bombs, suicide bombers and chemical and biological attack through heating and air conditioning systems.

In Washington, some streets were shut to traffic and police set up a temporary security perimeter around the US Capitol to inspect suspicious cars and trucks.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg rang the opening bell at the Stock Exchange, just blocks from where the Trade Center's Twin Towers once stood, to signal business as usual.

"New York City is not going to be cowed by terrorists, make no mistake about it," he said after breaking ground on a new Bank of America building in midtown.

Republican Gov. George Pataki said the Manhattan skyscraper groundbreaking was "a symbol of defiance to those who would have us live in terror or live in fear."

"It's greater specificity beyond what we've seen before," one US official said. "And they're planning something soon."

Security was ramped up at bridges and tunnels in and out of the city and at buildings named in the latest alert, such as Citigroup headquarters in midtown Manhattan where employees had their identification checked and bags searched. First lady Laura Bush met employees there.

At the IMF and World Bank, where security was already tight, extra police guarded entrances and about 1,000 World Bank employees met to discuss upgrades to security.

Barricades were erected at Prudential in Newark, New Jersey, to guard from truck bombs. Security firms said they were flooded with requests for advice and more armed guards.

The US Border Patrol was beefing up security along the Texas-Mexico border, deploying extra agents as well as cameras, electronic sensors and helicopters. *Reuters*

NYPD
HWY PATROL

NEW York City Police and a bomb sniffing dog search a DHL truck on Broadway near Wall Street in New York City. Security near the New York Stock Exchange was tightened after a terror warning was issued for financial institutions in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC on Aug. 1 by the US Department of Homeland Security. AFP

Canberra to host regional meet on counterterrorism

CANBERRA—International legal experts will gather in Australia this week to discuss how they can step up the fight against international terrorists in Southeast Asia.

The two-day meeting starting Wednesday in Canberra will bring together legal experts from across the region to discuss how countries can adopt similar counterterror legislation.

"Strong and seamless legal frameworks to counter terrorism are just as important as an effective first response to a terrorist incident," Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Attorney General Philip Ruddock said Tuesday in a joint statement.

"We will be working with regional countries to build legal regimes that make it harder for terrorists," it added.

The experts will consider what more can be done in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen antiterrorism laws and cooperative arrangements for gathering evidence and extraditing terrorist suspects.

"There have been some notable successes against terrorism in our region but we must keep striving to ensure there are no legal loopholes available to the terrorists," the ministers said.

Indonesia is scheduled to host a similar working group meeting on law enforcement issues in mid-August.

"These meetings again highlight Australia's ongoing commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism in cooperation with our neighbors and friends and to bring terrorists to justice wherever they are found," the ministers said. *AP*

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SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

FUNCTION ROOM A

Wednesday, August 11, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Forum on Basic Production and Design
by Book Development Association of the Philippines

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
The MIBF - MSA Little Math Wizards 2004 Eliminations, Levels 1 & 2

Thursday, August 12, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Public Forum on "Networking for Survival: A Sharing of Consortial Experiences" by Phil. Assoc. of Academic & Research Libraries

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Forum by UPLSAA

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Forum on "Local and Export Marketing"
by Book Development Association of the Philippines

Friday, August 13, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
The Big Leap "Challenge of Publishing Quality Textbook for Pre-school; Elementary, High School & College"by C & E Pub., Inc.

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Book Launching by St Pauls

Saturday, August 14, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Forum on Parental Involvement in Early Literacy (Family Literacy) by Philippine Normal University in cooperation with the Reading Association of the Philippines

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Translation Seminar by Philippine Bible Society

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle

Sunday, August 15, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Art Workshop by Art is Kool

3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
The Joys of Reading Essay-Writing Contest Awarding Ceremonies

FUNCTION ROOM B

Wednesday, August 11, 2004
1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Film Showing "Bayani" by ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Film Showing "Bayani" by ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

FUNCTION ROOM B

Thursday, August 12, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Forum on "Prescribed Lifestyle the Way to Live Life"
by Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Film Showing "Pahina" by ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Film Showing "Pahina" by ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

4:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Forum on "Printing Books on Demand" by Fuji Xerox

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.
Golden Crayon Awards by Phoenix Educational Systems, Inc.

Friday, August 13, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Film Showing "Hiraya Manawari" and "Detek Kids" by ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Forum on "Creating a World-Class Environment in the Library" by Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Forum on "Authorship and Editorial Management" by Book Development Association of the Philippines

Saturday, August 14, 2004
1:00 P.M - 7:30 P.M.
National Quiz Bee sponsored by Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc.

Sunday, August 15, 2004
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NN
Woman, Religion and Spirituality in Asia Book Launch by Anvil Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
The MIBF - MSA Little Math Wizards 2004 Championship Round, Levels 1 & 2

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Book Presentation "In the Light of Truth" by Stiftung Gralsbotschaft

ACTIVITY AREA 1

Aug 11 & 12, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. - Storytelling by Museo Pambata
2:30 P.M.- 3:30 P.M - Storytelling by Museo Pambata
Aug 13, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. - Storytelling by Museo Pambata
2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.- Artistry and Crafts by Museo Pambata
Aug 14, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. - Storytelling by Museo Pambata
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Face Painting, Storytelling, Kite Making by Adarna Publishing
Aug 15, 1:00 P.M.- 2:00 P.M. - Storytelling by Museo Pambata
2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. Artistry and Crafts by Museo Pambata

ACTIVITY AREA 2

Aug 12, 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. - Flower Arrangement by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. - Candle Making by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation
Aug 13, 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. - Basic Art and Animation Workshop by Mowelfund Film Ins.
Aug 14, 10:30 A.M. - 12:30P.M - Landscaping Workshop by Cornerstone Garden
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Lego Robotics by Felta Multi-Media
Aug 15, 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. - Reflexology Workshop by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation

ACTIVITY AREA 3

Aug 13, 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. - Dishgarden and Terrarium Making by Cornerstone Garden
11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. - Basic Hair Cutting by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation
Aug 15, 3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. - Storytelling by Alitaptap Storytellers Club

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Bombings blamed on Zarqawi

BAGHDAD—Iraq accused al-Qaida ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi on Monday of carrying out coordinated car bombings on churches that killed at least 11 people, saying the militants wanted to drive Christians out of the country.

Top Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and other Muslim leaders condemned the car bombings, timed for Sunday evening services in Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul. The attacks were the first on the minority Christian community's churches since the start of a 15-month insurgency.

"There is no shadow of a doubt that this bears the blueprint of Zarqawi," said national security adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, adding the militants wanted to spark religious conflict.

"Zarqawi and his extremists are basically trying to drive a wedge between Muslims and Christians in Iraq. It's clear they want to drive Christians out of the country," he said.

Jordanian-born Zarqawi has claimed responsibility for many major car bombings in Iraq since Saddam Hussein was ousted last year and also the killing of several foreign hostages among dozens seized since April.

A little-known Islamist group calling itself the Planning and Follow-Up Organization in Iraq said on a Web site it carried out the bombings, but no independent verification was available.

"You wanted a crusader war, so these are the results... We warned you," the group said in a statement.

Sunday's car bombs hit at least five churches in Iraq, including four in Baghdad. Police defused two more bombs outside other churches, one in Baghdad and the other in Mosul.

The attacks killed at least 11 people and wounded 55, the US military and police said.

Christians make up three percent of the Iraqi population and have generally had good ties with the Muslim community. Some Christians, fearing growing Islamization in Iraq, have fled to Syria and Jordan.

Human Rights Minister Bakhtiar Amin said the interim government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi was trying its best to combat guerrillas and uproot their networks.

"This shows there are no borders to the barbarity of the crimes of these terrorists," he said.

Parish priest Bashar Muntihorda, speaking outside a Chaldean church in Baghdad that was hit, said: "The damage that was done is so high to the courage of the people, to their feelings, to their hopes that a bright future is coming." *Reuters*

Frightened Christians try to leave Iraq

BAGHDAD—Wissam Sagman has already tried unsuccessfully to leave the country, fearing his Christian family would not be safe in the new, chaotic Iraq.

Now, after a series of bombings at churches across the country on Sunday, his fear of his neighbors has grown and he plans to redouble his efforts to get out.

"These people, they love blood. They hate humanity. They hate us," Sagman said, looking around his wrecked living room, damaged from a car bomb attack on an Armenian church across the street. "They want all the Christians to leave."

The coordinated attacks hit four churches in Baghdad and one in Mosul, killing at least seven people and wounding dozens more in the first significant strike on Iraq's minority Christians since the US invasion last year.

Iraqi leaders condemned the violence Monday, trying to quell Christian fears they were being routed from the country. Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most senior Shiite cleric, called the attacks "hideous crimes."

Iraq's 750,000 Christians have grown ever anxious at the rise of Islamic fundamentalism since the ouster of Saddam Hussein last year.

MOURNERS grieve during a funeral service of an Iraqi Christian man, Namir Georgis and his 10-year-old son Rafid, who were killed in Sunday's car bomb attacks on churches in the capital Baghdad. REUTERS

Hundreds have fled to neighboring Jordan and Syria.

Others are waiting to join them.

"This is my church! My church!" Thomas George, 73, cried, shaking his walking stick outside a Syrian Catholic church in Baghdad that was among those targeted Sunday.

Muslim neighbors tried to console George and Tarek Kidr, another churchgoer.

One, Sadek Rabi, said Muslims and Christians were both facing the same violence.

"A Muslim can't go to a mosque and a Christian can't go to church now," said 32-year-old Rabi, recalling attacks in recent months on Muslim sites of worship that have killed hundreds.

On Monday, an unknown group claimed responsibility for the church bombings and warned that more attacks would come. The statement, signed by an organization calling itself the Committee of Planning and Follow-up in Iraq, was posted on an Islamic Web site.

"You wanted a crusade, and this is the result," the statement said.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh vowed authorities would hunt down those responsible.

"The interim government of Iraq is united in condemning all acts of terrorism and is determined to use all available force, both Iraqi and those of multinational forces in Iraq, to pursue and destroy the people who plan and carry out such atrocities," Saleh told reporters.

Iraq's religious leaders unanimously denounced the bombings.

"We condemn and reproach these hideous crimes," said al-Sistani. He said the assaults "targeted Iraq's unity, stability and independence" and called on the government and Iraqis to work together to end the violence.

The Association of Muslim Scholars, an influential Sunni Muslim group believed to have links to insurgents, issued a statement offering condolences to the victims and blaming foreign fighters for trying to instigate sectarian fighting.

"Targeting churches is another type of effort aimed at damaging Iraqi unity, "the group said. "Such acts cannot be done by Iraqis."

The Roman Catholic Chaldean Patriarch, the Rev. Emmanuel Delly, said Iraqis of all religions will stay united. *AP*

Militants kill Turkish hostage; truckers opt to stop operations

BAGHDAD—Masked gunmen shot a blindfolded Turkish contractor three times in the head in a gruesome Internet video meant to warn Muslim workers to stay out of Iraq. Soon after the video was discovered Monday, Turkish truckers announced they would stop hauling goods for US forces in hopes of saving two other Turkish hostages.

The truckers' decision was another victory for militants who have taken more than 70 foreigners hostage as leverage to drive coalition forces and anyone supporting them out of the country.

Meanwhile, US Marines fought Monday with gunmen protecting radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr's house in clashes that killed one woman and wounded three others in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, hospital officials said.

Al-Sadr, whose followers fought a two-month rebellion against US forces in early April that died down after a series of truces, was in his house at the time, witnesses said.

The US Marines said they had been attacked with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars during a security patrol in the city. They returned fire, killing two insurgents, the military said in a statement.

Witnesses said the fighting Monday began when US military vehicles entered the Zahra area near al-Sadr's house, which is protected by his militia, the Mahdi Army. The Marines said they were only patrolling areas of the city authorized under the cease-fire agreement.

On Monday, Iraqi government and religious leaders lashed out at a coordinated series of car bombings on Iraqi churches during Sunday evening services that killed at least seven people and wounded 37 others.

"We condemn and reproach these hideous crimes," said Iraq's most senior Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, who added that the attacks "targeted Iraq's unity, stability and independence."

The government said it did not know who was behind the bombings. "Sources of danger, however, are represented by al-Qaida's followers and supporters of the former regime," Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh told reporters Monday.

Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who is linked to al-Qaida, has claimed responsibility for a spate of recent attacks, including a coordinated series of suicide bombings and other attacks on police stations June 24 that killed 89 people and wounded 318 others.

Al-Zarqawi's group often uses suicide bombers; the explosions Sunday came from booby-trapped cars. *AP*

Marriott blast survivor recounts confrontation with Islamic bombers

JAKARTA—Febby Firmansyah suffered horrific burns in the suicide bombing of Jakarta's J.W. Marriott hotel a year ago. But he told two militants accused of planning the attack that he forgave them, and then confronted them—Muslim to Muslim—on the error of their ways.

"I asked them what they were thinking," Firmansyah said of his emotional meeting with the suspects at police headquarters earlier this year. "There is nothing in the al-Quran that tells people to kill other believers."

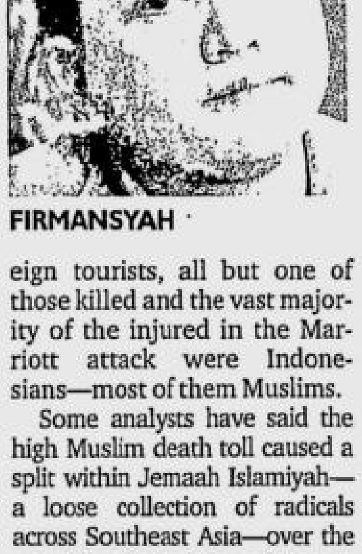
"They said they did it for Jihad... to cleanse (Indonesia) of Americans. I said Jihad is not like that," the 27-year-old oil worker said.

Twelve people were killed and more than 100 injured in the Aug. 5 attack on the US-owned hotel, which will be commemorated Thursday. It was blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah, also accused in the 2002 nightclubs attacks on Indonesia's resort island of Bali.

Firmansyah's willingness to take on the attackers is unusual in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Authorities have arrested and convicted scores of militants since 2001, but government ministers and religious leaders are unwilling to outlaw Jemaah Islamiyah or acknowledge that Muslims are often the victims of Islamic terrorism.

While most of the 202 victims in the Bali blasts were foreign tourists, all but one of those killed and the vast majority of the injured in the Marriott attack were Indonesians—most of them Muslims.



FIRMANSYAH

Some analysts have said the high Muslim death toll caused a split within Jemaah Islamiyah—a loose collection of radicals across Southeast Asia—over the morality of attacking soft targets like shopping malls and hotels.

The Marriott bombers attacked at lunchtime for maximum casualties.

The hotel's popular ground-floor restaurant was packed when the suicide bomber drew up to the lobby and detonated his vehicle, packed with explosives, gasoline and nails.

Another victim, Anie Rachmayani, was lunching when she heard a boom "like an earthquake" and saw a massive fireball rush toward her. The 30-year-old marketing manager was out of work for three months with burns and shrapnel injuries. *AP*

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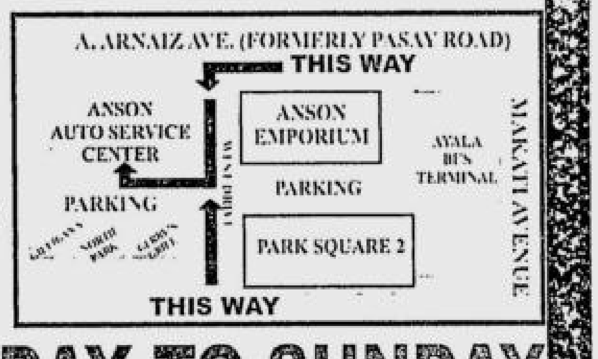

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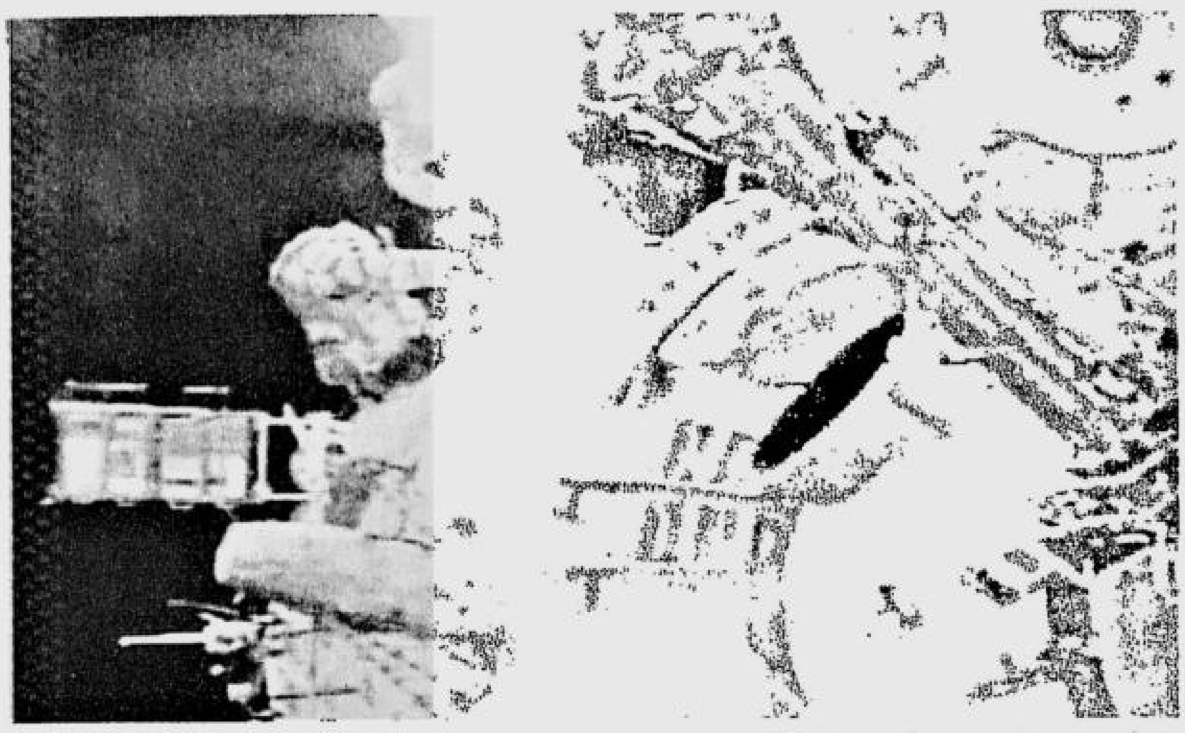

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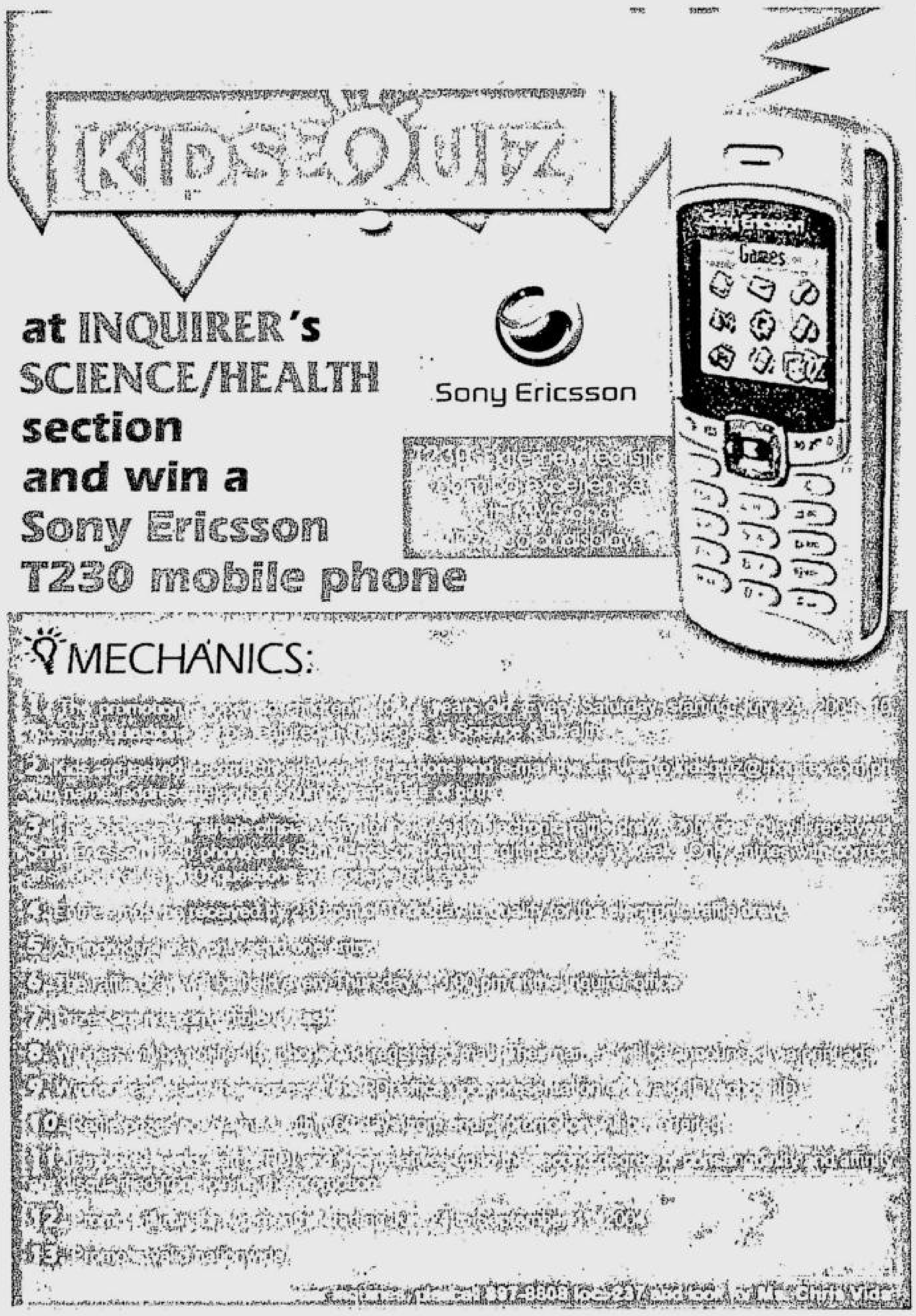

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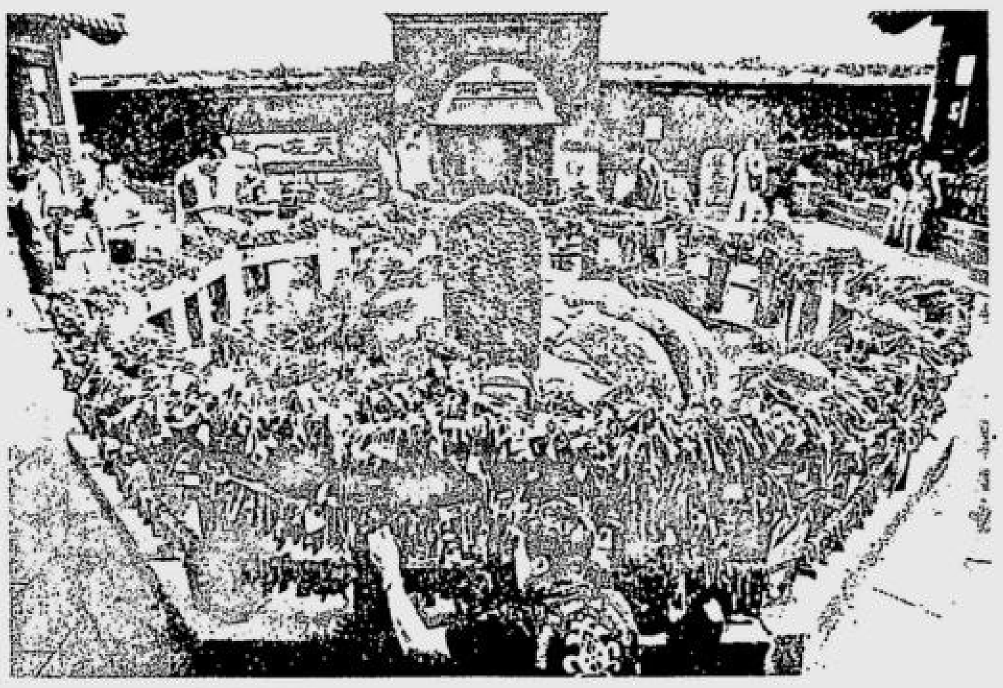

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Fischer seeks refugee status

TOKYO—Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer, wanted by Washington for defying sanctions on Yugoslavia, is looking for countries willing to give him a home—including perhaps Serbia and Montenegro—if Japan goes ahead with a decision to deport him, an adviser said on Tuesday.

Fischer, 61, arrived in Japan in April and was detained at Narita airport near Tokyo last month when he tried to leave for the Philippines on a passport US officials say was invalid.

Fischer has been wanted in the United States since 1992 when he violated US economic sanctions by winning $3 million for beating old rival Boris Spassky in a match in Yugoslavia.

The elusive and eccentric chessmaster then vanished, only to resurface after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States to give an interview to Philippine radio in which he praised the strikes and said he wanted to see America "wiped out."

Japanese immigration officials rejected Fischer's initial appeal last week and his lawyer handed final documents for a second plea to Justice Minister Daizo Nozawa on Monday. *Reuters*

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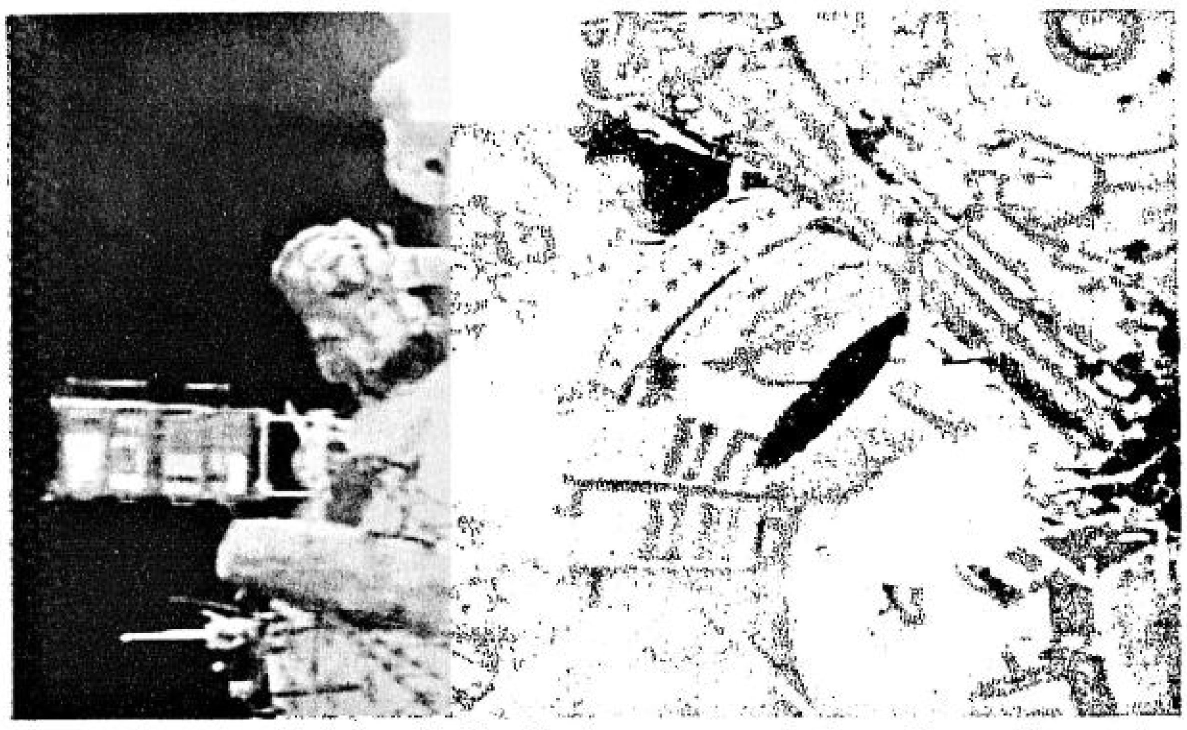

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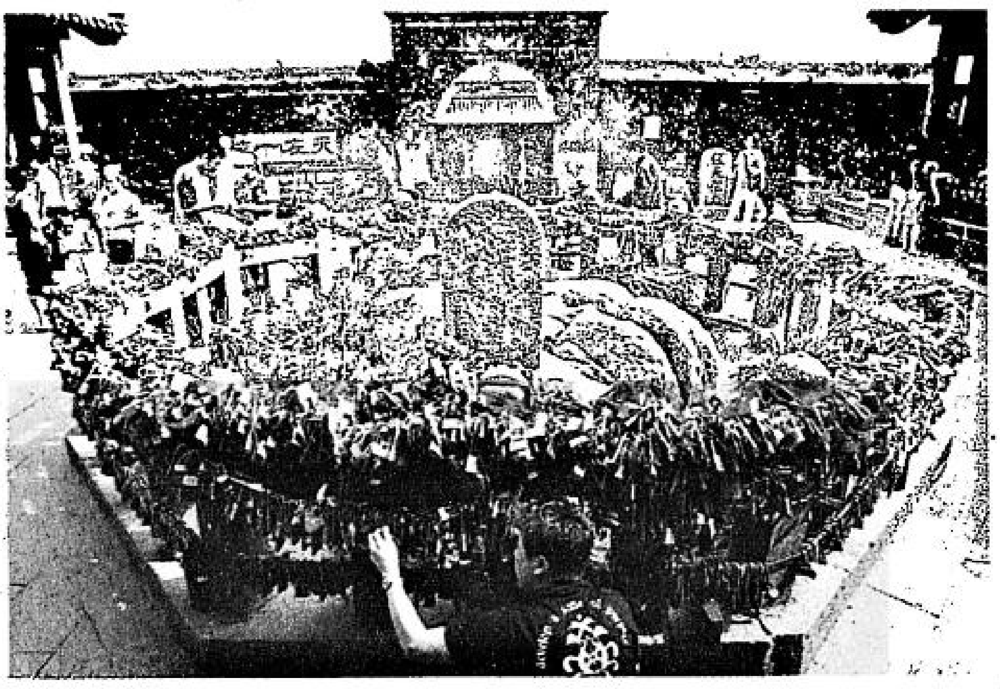

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"paano n ang bukas at ang kasabihan n ang kabataan ang pag asa ng ating byan kung kukunti n lng sila"
King G. Heath, Legazpi City
"dami ng anak dapat my limit, upang sikmuray d mmilipit, s gu2m at sakit anak lagi ang kww, hirap ng buhay ang iging tintmsa"
Allyn Sadiarin, Sampaloc, Manila

Fischer seeks refugee status

TOKYO—Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer, wanted by Washington for defying sanctions on Yugoslavia, is looking for countries willing to give him a home—including perhaps Serbia and Montenegro—if Japan goes ahead with a decision to deport him, an adviser said on Tuesday.

Fischer, 61, arrived in Japan in April and was detained at Narita airport near Tokyo last month when he tried to leave for the Philippines on a passport US officials say was invalid.

Fischer has been wanted in the United States since 1992 when he violated US economic sanctions by winning $3 million for beating old rival Boris Spassky in a match in Yugoslavia.

The elusive and eccentric chessmaster then vanished, only to resurface after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States to give an interview to Philippine radio in which he praised the strikes and said he wanted to see America "wiped out."

Japanese immigration officials rejected Fischer's initial appeal last week and his lawyer handed final documents for a second plea to Justice Minister Daizo Nozawa on Monday. *Reuters*

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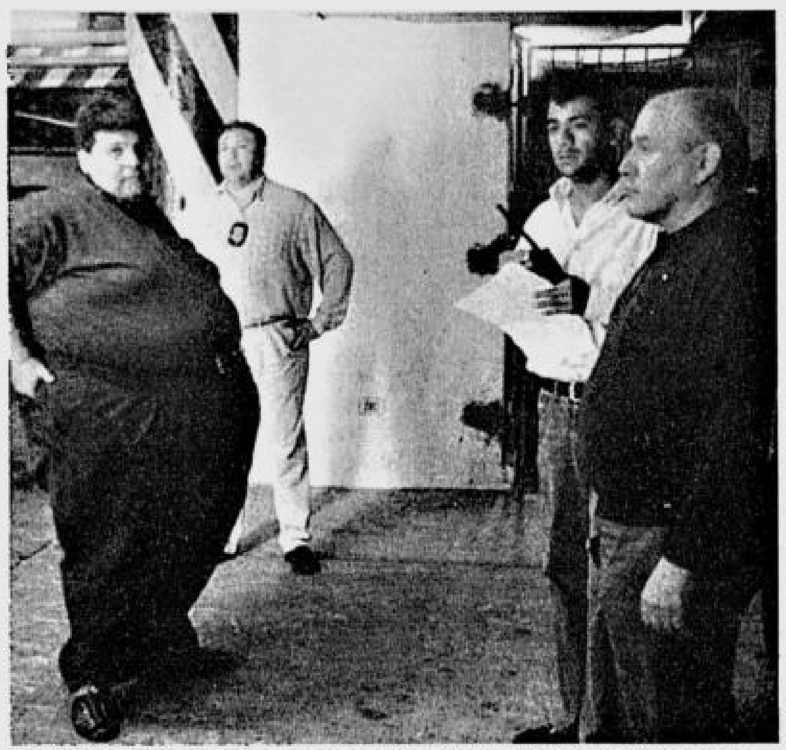

JUAN Pio Paiva (right), co-owner of the Ycua Bolano supermarket, stands with his son Victor Daniel Paiva (left), in the entrance to the district attorney's office in Asuncion. The Paivas are being investigated by police. REUTERS

Paraguay fire survivors blame locked doors for high death toll

ASUNCION—Locked doors prevented or slowed the escape of supermarket shoppers from a fast-spreading fire that killed well over 300 people and injured hundreds more, survivors said. The market's two owners, a manager and a security official were detained for questioning.

The confirmed death toll stood at 318 Monday but Independent Channel 4 television said 364 were killed, citing unidentified interior ministry officials.

The cause of Paraguay's worst disaster in decades was not known, but police said they were investigating whether an exploding gas canister in the food court may have started Sunday's blaze.

The owners, a father and son, denied the doors were locked.

The fire tore through the bustling, three-story supermarket in a suburb of Asuncion, the capital, during lunch hour. The blaze collapsed one floor and engulfed the food court and parking garage.

Officials also said at least 276 people were injured, but Channel 4 put its figure at 524. Government officials had no comments on the station's higher casualty totals. Also, investigators were trying to determine how many more were inside the building but escaped unharmed.

Esther Benitez, a 30-year-old cashier who suffered burns, said she at first found her way blocked as she tried to escape. "I ran toward the main door but it was locked," she said from her hospital bed Monday.

Some neighbors said they were forced to break windows to enter the supermarket because the doors wouldn't open.

"There were people crowded outside the main entrance using sticks and poles trying to open the door," said Raul Tamay, who rushed to the supermarket and found his brother, Hernan, who had been shopping inside.

"We couldn't get inside and the people couldn't get out," said Liliana Hernandez, 33, who lives next door to the Ycua Bolanos supermarket.

She said even firefighters, frustrated in their efforts to get inside, resorted to battering holes through a wall of her house to reach the supermarket. "They broke two giant holes in the wall to carry bodies out," she said.

Juan Pio Paiva, who owns the market with his son, dismissed speculation that the doors had been deliberately locked to prevent looting.

"The security guards confirmed that the doors weren't closed by them," he said, angrily. He said he "lamented" the disaster and insisted the building met safety standards. Both men were being held on suspicion of failing to prevent the tragedy. AP

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raffle ticket
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*photos may vary from the actual items

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Customers (individual, corporate or government account) who placed a reservation fee to purchase any Isuzu Crosswind variant is entitled to pick a stub from a bowl to win a Bobcat jacket or a Bobcat water pool bag.
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b. Purchase
For purchase whether through outright cash payment or financing of any Isuzu Crosswind variant, the customer will be given a free Three Way Lock System and will be entitled to one (1) raffle ticket in every unit purchased for a chance to win in the Grand Raffle. The raffle stub must be filled-out with the buyer's **COMPLETE NAME, AGE, ADDRESS, TEL. NUMBER(S), PURCHASED MODEL, DEALERSHIP** (where the product was purchased), **C.S. #** and affixed **SIGNATURE** and dropped in drop boxes located in the participating dealership. They must also present a copy of their valid I.D.

* **Note** : For corporate account sales the raffle stub must indicate the company name of purchase.

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EIGHT (8) WINNERS Panasonic Video Camera
EIGHT (8) WINNERS Sony Playstation 2 console
TEN (10) WINNERS Canon Digital Camera (A-80)
EIGHT (8) WINNERS Apple IPOD MP3 Player 15 GB
EIGHT (8) WINNERS Carryboy Massager

4. Deadline for submission of entries is **August 31, 2004, 8:00pm** at any Isuzu authorized dealership nationwide.

5. Drawing of winners will be on **September 10, 2004** at Isuzu Pasig **10AM** in the presence of a DTI Representative.

6. A participant can only win once. In the event that a name is drawn more than once, the winner gets the higher-valued prize.

7. All prizes are **TAX-PAID**; no fees are required upon claiming of prizes.

8. Winners will be notified via phone and registered mail.

9. List of winners will be published in leading newspapers of general circulation.

10. Winners may claim their claim vouchers for the premium items at the Marketing Communications Department of Isuzu Philippines Corporation, Laguna Technopark, Biñan Laguna upon presentation of a valid I.D., the winning stub, and the winner notification letter sent by Isuzu Phils. Corp. Provincial winners may claim their claim vouchers at the Isuzu dealership where purchase was made.

11. Claim voucher won is only entitled for the prize as stated and cannot be convertible to cash or to other appliances. Winners may claim their prizes at any Anson's Emporium Corp. nationwide within 60 days from issuance of claim vouchers.

12. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Isuzu Philippines Corporation with the prior approval of the DTI.

13. Employees of Isuzu Philippines Corporation, its authorized dealerships, advertising agency, and suppliers including their relatives up to the 3rd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

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OPINION

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Waltzing Manila

EDITORIAL

THE PERENNIAL problem of Philippine diplomacy has been the way we let bygones be bygones. Philippine administrations tend to be easygoing and all too willing to oblige other countries, when arguments between states shouldn't be that easy to patch up.

Take the tiff between the Philippines and Australia. In recent days, soothing words have been coming from the Philippines, in response to a toning down of the rhetoric emanating from official Australian circles. The question that must be asked is, is the Philippines all too willing to dance to Australia's tune?

Our diplomats and our government must realize that the strong, coarse, and even vulgar, words that have been uttered by the Australian leaders are a reflection not only of a difference in policies, but of a deeply disturbing contemptuous attitude on their part toward us. The present Australian government has a low opinion of us, and too high an opinion of itself.

It would be wrong, and unfair, not only to us but to Australia, for the Philippines to merely shrug off what has happened. Shrugging off eccentric and hurtful behavior may be easy to do when it comes to personal friends, but it shouldn't be so easy to shrug off official pronouncements between states.

The Philippines has held fast to its emerging, more independent policies, and retained the moral advantage in its relations with Australia. For our officials to back down now would only send a message that our reaction to Australian rhetoric was merely emotional pique, and not a substantive difference. Most of all, it would send the message to the Australian government that we are easily bamboozled. Only say a nice word, and Manila is all but ready to dance to Canberra's tune.

This cannot be. The Philippines should only be interested in dealing with nations that can exercise enough self-control, and muster enough common decency and respect, to restrict policy differences to the level of policy debate, and not indulge in careless gutter language. We cannot be moving forward and backward merely on the say-so of Australian officials who cannot be counted on to even act in a civilized manner.

Only by standing firm, by not being easily swayed by honeyed words that we cannot even be sure to be sincere, can the Philippines build a truly equitable relationship with Australia.

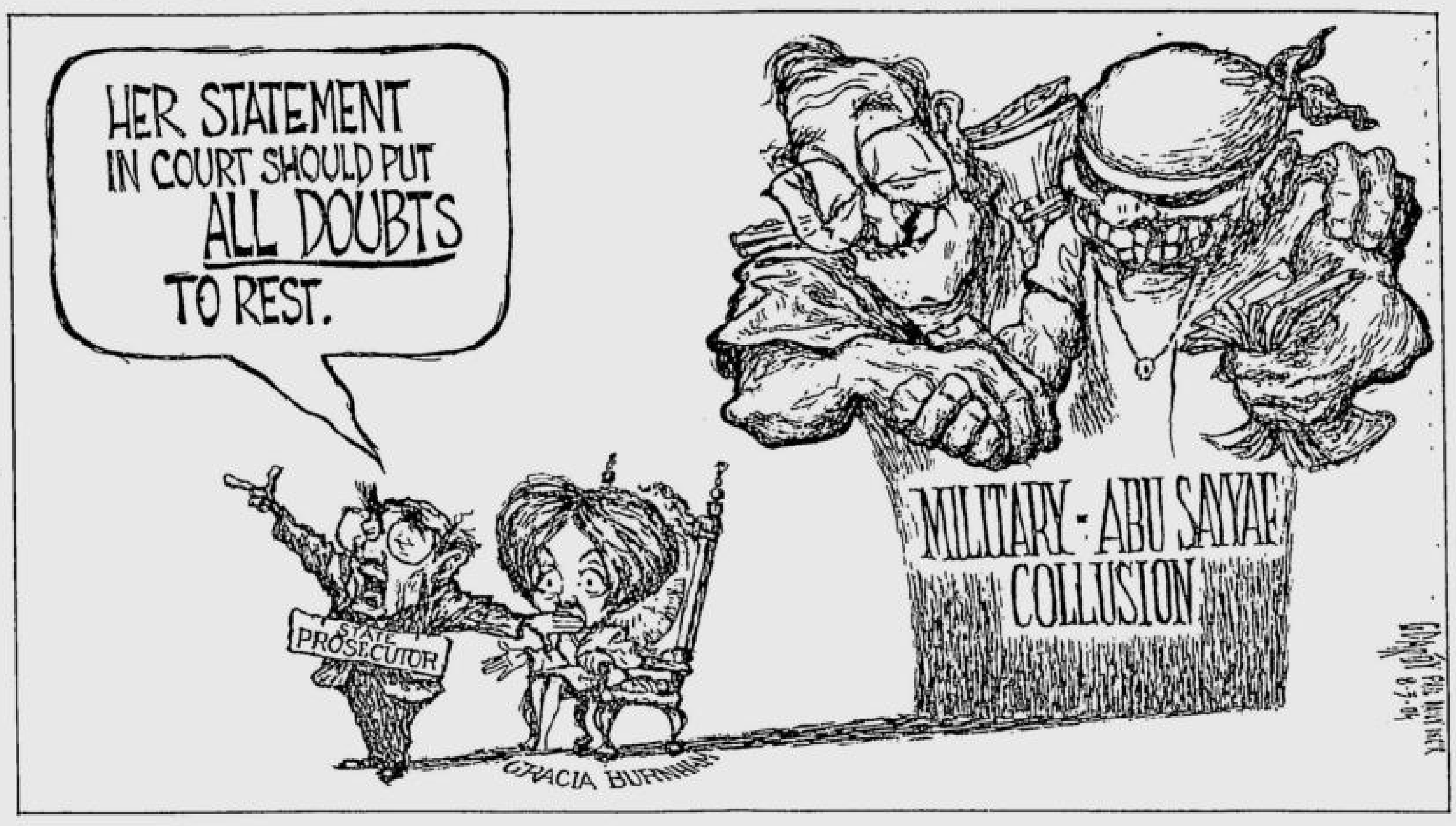
Australia has wronged our country, and such wrongs shouldn't be easily undone. By all means, we should give Australia a chance to prove itself repentant. But until its actions and newfound moderation are reflected in official actions, programs and statements over a sustained period of time, we must be skeptical.

It is reasonable to ask whether Australia's government is really feeling regret over its statements, or whether it's simply surprised the Philippines and Filipinos aren't the pushovers they assumed us to be. It is equally reasonable to demand of our government that it not prove the initial official Australian attitudes toward our country by acting like a pushover now.

Any behavior that is not polite yet skeptical, cautious yet reasonable, will serve to convince foreign countries that we aren't a people to be taken seriously. If Australia wants friendship with us, it must act as any friend must act, when it has wronged another. It must endure a period of probation. It must live with its actions and actuations being viewed with a skeptical eye. It must be patient just as our country has been tolerant and unwilling to stoop down to Australia's level.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. This is one of Newton's laws. It applies to human and international relations as it does to science. The Philippines has far more to gain by being cautious and initially cool, to Australia, than it does by reverting to the old Philippine stereotype of being overeager to please the white man.

It is quite disappointing that after having been independent for 58 years, our country still has to be reminded of some of the basic lessons of sovereignty.


HER STATEMENT IN COURT SHOULD PUT ALL DOUBTS TO REST.
STATE PROSECUTOR
GRACIA BURNHAM
MILITARY - ABU SAYYAF COLLUSION

Burnham didn't clear the military; DOJ did

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE CURRENT controversy over whether or not former hostage Gracia Burnham cleared the military of collusion with the Abu Sayyaf would not have happened had the media not been banned from the trial. In the first place, the ban was unconstitutional. The trial is a criminal case, and the Constitution provides that the accused in criminal cases are to be tried in public. Trials of criminal cases should therefore be open to the public. This was not a civil case on a domestic dispute where the family is entitled to privacy. The government had no right to ban media from the trial.

If the purpose was to protect Burnham or avoid having an overcrowded courtroom, the media could have been kept out but the proceedings could have been made public by having a closed circuit television broadcast for the public outside, as the Supreme Court sometimes does during its own hearings. Or at least a loudspeaker could have been installed so that the public could listen to the questions of the lawyers and the answers of the witness.

The wonder is why no media organization or association protested the ban, although it was made known well in advance. No newspaper or broadcast organization has made any protest. Neither has the National Press Club, the Philippine Press Institute nor the Publishers Organization of the Philippines protested until now. Only Samahang Plaridel, the new association of working journalists, has voiced a protest so far.

Was the ban purposely done to mislead media into reporting that the military had been cleared by the witness? I hope not, because Department of Justice officials, of all people, would then be liable for obstruction of justice in giving the erroneous briefing to the press. I hope it was, as claimed, "an honest mistake," not only by the prosecutors who gave the briefing but, ironically, also by the acting justice secretary.

State prosecutor Nestor Lazaro quoted Burnham (erroneously, it turns out) as saying, "There is no collusion between the ASG and the military." Senior state prosecutor Leo Dacera followed it up with: "Her statement in court should put everything—the matter, all doubts—to rest." And Acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez herself declared that Burnham's statement, "given under oath and in open court, should clarify any misunderstanding that her book might have created."

Quite the contrary, the judge trying the case said, and television footage and tape recordings of the trial proved that Burnham did no such thing. The military was cleared, not by Burnham, but by the DOJ.

"If this is the way our top lawyers think, then justice in the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings may never be served," said the INQUIRER editorial last Monday. (Read the editorial in full for more telling questions.)

The prosecutors' and the DOJ's duty is to prosecute all the accused, including, possibly, members of the military, not to act as their defense lawyers. Isn't there a rush to judgment here, a rush to acquit the military? If so, how far up the ladder does it lead?

Could it be that somebody in the civilian government is afraid of the military? But note that not the whole military establishment is under suspicion here but only certain members. Covering up for them stains the whole military organization.

* * *

Another mystery is why President Macapagal-Arroyo is transferring the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to the Department of Finance (DOF). The two money-earning agencies are doing very well under the Office of the President, so why transfer them? As the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Two other money-earning agencies, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC), are already under the DOF. And they are reputed to be the two most corrupt agencies in the government. Does the President want Pagcor to be as corrupt as these agencies?

But there is talk that the transfers are not as simple as they look. First, it is said that the move is intended to dampen the appetite of vultures who want to replace PCSO Chair Honeygirl Singson-De Leon who is still recovering from a stroke. Second, it is said that a gambling Mafia in the region wants to take over Pagcor because of its forthcoming huge gambling and entertainment park at the reclamation site on Roxas Boulevard, a sort of Las Vegas of the Orient.

This Mafia, so the talk goes, is led by a Chinese gambling lord who already tried to enter the Philippines but failed. Now he is trying to come in through the backdoor. Among his partners are some Filipino and Chinese characters who have already been caught red-handed in an earlier scam. One of them is in hiding abroad. This Mafia, so the story goes, wants to have a monopoly of all the gambling casinos in the region. An independent Pagcor with its theme park would be a strong competitor.

To top it all, the new finance secretary may be a member of this Mafia, so they say. The person who will recommend her to GMA is her former colleague in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the speculation continues. So you see how all the pieces fall together.

* * *

Samahang Plaridel has its clubhouse on T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila. It will have a piano bar, a library, a lounge, a billiards and game room, a private office and conference room, and a kitchen. The formal inauguration will be in a month or two.

Burning point

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"FAHRENHEIT 9/11" is a takeoff from "Fahrenheit 451," Ray Bradbury's novel depicting a future where firefighters do not put out fires but make them—to burn books. It is an inspired borrowing. "Fahrenheit 9/11" is as much about an Orwellian nightmare as "Fahrenheit 451," and it is just as brilliant.

Michael Moore is the fellow most Filipinos, who watch the Oscars Awards with the same passion they watch the NBA Finals, will remember last year for shouting, "Shame on you, Mr. Bush." Moore then won the trophy for best documentary for "Bowling for Columbine," a truly insightful look at the culture of violence that pervades America. His "Shame on you, Mr. Bush" was for Bush's splendid little war in Iraq.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" is that phrase amplified to near two hours of biting criticism, satire, humor, and much warmth and compassion for the victims of Bush's existence, chief of them the American people. It has, not quite incidentally, already won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

It begins with Bush becoming president four years ago in conditions that completely uncannily mirrors our own last elections. GMA's rivals might want to take notice. Al Gore was predicted to take Florida, but miracle of miracles, Bush did. Three things made it possible: Bush's campaign chair was the vote-count woman whose estate hired a company to knock off "unwanted" voters from the list, his brother was the governor of Florida who manipulated the results, and his cousin was the point man at Fox News who mounted a campaign to convince the public he won. Substitute the names Benjamin Abalos, Tomas Osmeña, ABS-CBN and Cebu, and you have a perfect match.

There is one difference. They pelted Bush's car with eggs on his way to his inauguration, the first time it happened to a US president. Well, it was the first time they had *dagdagbawas*. We thought we had better uses for eggs. For the next months up till 9/11, and indeed well into 9/11, Bush spent his days golfing and fishing—he was on holiday 40 percent of the time. When news of 9/11 got to him, he was too stunned to react, and did nothing for seven minutes. Why was he too stunned? Well, not all of it owed to being duh. A great deal of it also owed to hearing the skeletons in his closet rattling furiously.

How did George W build his fortune? He did so by putting up oil companies, like his dad, using Saudi money. Indeed, not just ordinary Saudi money but money from a family called Bin Laden. Ring a bell? Yes, the same family that counts Osama as member. Unlike his dad, George W ran his businesses to the ground, but still the Bin Ladens invested in him. He was, after all, the son of the head of the CIA and later the president of the United States. Much later, when he himself became president, he and his father were already members of the Carlyle Group, which was into weapons-making and in which the Bin Ladens were also investors.

When 9/11 struck, the US authorities promptly cancelled all flights to and from the United States. Yet the White House allowed more than a hundred Saudi nationals, including the 24 Bin Laden family members in the United States, to leave. After a noisy but haphazard effort to capture Osama, Bush promptly forgot about him. Moore puts it this way: "Suppose one group of people, say the American citizens, pays you $400,000 to be president of the US. Then another group of people invests in you, your friends, and their related businesses $1.4 billion over a number of years, who're you gonna like?"

All this should give you a foretaste of what to expect from Moore's latest opus. I will not spoil your enthusiasm by going into it in detail. Suffice it to say that the rest of it deals with Bush subsequently shifting attention—or shifting the American public's attention, since he himself had been focused on it well before 9/11—on to Iraq. The criminal negligence with which he handled the intelligence about a possible strike by Osama bin Laden on America, which has been revealed by subsequent investigations, is matched only by his dogged determination to connect Saddam Hussein to al-Qaida and weapons of mass destruction, connections that were not just tenuous but nonexistent.

But what makes "Fahrenheit 9/11" outstanding from where I stand is not just the depth of its research and honesty but of its compassion. It drives home in stark pictures and images a point I and many others have been trying to convey in words. Which is that if the world can grieve for each of those who perished in 9/11, remembering them in all the resplendence of life, how can the same world not grieve for each man, woman and child who perished in Iraq, remembering how they once filled the hearts of their loved ones with the joy of laughter? Both 9/11 and the Iraq invasion are products of terrorism, both are the handiwork of madmen. The dead in both cases are sacrifices at the altar of madmen's whims.

I read recently that "Fahrenheit "9/11" is not just playing to good audiences in movie theaters in the United States but has become one of the top 10 grossers over the past weeks! I couldn't be happier for Moore, or for the American people who have been hapless victims of a very real terror: their paranoid fears about poison gases and other sources of genocidal mayhem were dredged up for months to justify going into Iraq. I myself would suggest the documentary be made required viewing for the Senate and Congress (I've given up on Malacañang; some minds may not be improved) in monumental aid of legislation. Few things can better help to make wise laws. I would suggest further it be made required viewing in schools and other institutions in equally monumental aid of vigilance, the kind that keeps nations truly free.

You never know, the fool might win again.

Philippine press under fire

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE P50-MILLION criminal libel case lodged by former Foreign Secretary Roberto R. Romulo against the Philippine Star, its publisher and columnist Maximo Soliven and its editors has put the entire Philippine press on the spot.

Romulo's case is not a run-of-the mill complaint against abuse of press freedom. In the dock is not just the Star, but the Philippine press' mechanisms to protect the public from its abuses. The complaint raises issues over the capacity of these mechanisms—the Philippine Press Institute, the Philippine Press Council—(1) to discipline members who have been denounced in the council for mounting allegedly scurrilous attacks on individuals; and (2) to give the targets of attacks the right to reply. The issue of fairness, a fundamental principle in press freedom, is at stake.

It is not the criminal aspects of the libel case that make it a landmark action. Romulo's action puts to the test the notion that the press, through its self-regularity bodies, is an institutional fraternity that is no better than Congress, the military and the police, incapable of making its members toe the line or conform with its own rules.

Although Soliven, a friend whom I respect, is the principal focus of the complaint, he is only one aspect of the larger picture in this case. The case is bigger than Soliven in that it raises a raft of issues with implications for press freedom and responsibility.

Romulo took the case to court, as a last resort, after the Press Council failed to take jurisdiction of his complaint and after the Star editors had denied him reasonable space to reply. In other words, Romulo followed the press' own due process and took it on its word "to guarantee every news subject's right to reply."

The Press Council is the body in the Philippine Press Institute, the organization of major newspaper publishers, which hears complaints concerning denial of the right to reply and decides whether the complaints have merit.

The council is composed of senior editors, and three non-press citizens (a former justice, an academic and a civic leader). It decides by consensus. It has no disciplinary power. It can't sack offending journalists. Its hearings are confidential—no linen is washed before the public. The worst sanction it can impose is to require publication in the papers of its findings.

Besides, Soliven has not been accused of venalities.

For the purpose of highlighting the issues raised by the complaint, it is not necessary for me to go into the details. These details are better left to be examined by the criminal court, or by the Press Council if it decides to take jurisdiction.

In his letter dated July 9 to the Council, Romulo said Soliven had been waging a "campaign of vilification" against him for more than 13 months. Within that span of time, a total of 32 "defamatory and negative" articles were published in the Star.

If Romulo's count is correct, then the sustained barrage would have few parallels in Philippine journalism in intensity (at the rate of more than two attacks a month). The motivation for the intensity of the attacks is better left to the court and the Council to determine, but an indication of the ferocity is found in the barrage of name-calling, labeling Romulo a "schemer," "agent of Jewish lobby," "opportunist," "racketeer," "dipsomaniac," "arrogant showoff," "pompous," "Brutus.'"

This verbal assault prompted the Makati Business Club to write Isaac Belmonte, editor of the Star, calling attention to the denial by the paper of the right to reply of the target of its attacks. The MBC raised two important questions that should pertain not only to the Star but other papers as well. These questions were:

"Are your columnists totally free to accuse anyone of anything without requiring them to substantiate their allegations?

"Is the right of reply of all citizens accused in your newspaper recognized and practiced as a matter of policy?"

These questions have application on other papers as well. They raise important issues. They challenge the widely held belief among newspaper columnists that because they are writing opinion, this is fair journalism, and they are not required to back their opinion with facts.

This point of view is held by opinion writers who don't have extensive background as reporters.

Romulo told the Press Council that the Star did not publish his letters to the editor, except for a short excerpt of a letter and declined his request to buy advertising space to publish his reply in full.

Not only the Star is on the spot. Equally under fire is the Press Council, for not taking cognizance of the case that would have started the process of inquiry during which, under the Council's rules, the Star could be asked to reply to Romulo's complaint. Romulo put the Council on the spot when he asked: "What recourse [does] a citizen like myself [have] when a journalist and an entire media organization decide to make cannon fodder of his reputation and good name, not just once but seemingly as a matter of policy? I want to find out whether, besides the court system, there is in our press community a corner or sanctuary to which one can repair for vindication."

Most newspapers didn't want to touch the story. Some believe it is unethical to make judgments on practices of other papers. But publishing the complaint and discussing the issues it raises are not being judgmental or being holier-than-thou. These are issues involving the public's right to know what's happening inside the press.

Learning from China

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EASILY the hottest news of the past week was the seeming spate of proposed legislation dealing with population management and family planning policy. The most controversial seems to be the bill filed by Rep. Edcel Lagman, which recommends the adoption of a "two-child policy" that would be enforced by a system of "incentives and disincentives," including the denial of health and educational services to the children of couples with three or more offspring.

I can well understand why such proposed legislation would spark an uproar, since it smacks of social control as well as government interference in the goings-on in the marital bed (or mat).

It is also quite unnecessary. Most Filipino couples, surveys reveal, already prefer smaller families, with the preferred average number of children set at two, although for some reason, the average family size is now between three and four children. Clearly, couples need help in achieving their "desired fertility level." All government needs to do at this point is help them have the number of children they want and no more.

We need to learn from the experiences of countries where the state sought more direct intervention in people's fertility. Fortuitously, an article in the June 2004 issue of International Family Planning Perspectives contains an analysis of China's experience with its "one-child policy" set in the 1970s. In the article "Family Planning and Women's Lives in Rural China," authors Karen Hardee, Zhenming Xie and Baochang Gu explain the results of survey and focus-group data gathered between 1996 and 1998 from women in three provinces—Jiangsu, Anhui and Yunnan—examining the links between family planning and childbearing to women's lives within the family, including their relationships with spouses and other family members, and their opportunities for education, employment and social activities.

Perhaps Lagman and other policymakers would do well to read the article and study it in full, if only because it shows that family planning policy cannot be crafted in a vacuum, without addressing as well gender relations, including the role of women and men, sons and daughters in the family and in society. I'm quoting the article's conclusion in full below.

* * *

THE MEANING of family planning is different for each of the three generations of Chinese women studied in this article. Older women typically had more children than they wanted and regretted not having had better access to contraceptive services. Middle-aged women were not adverse to the idea of having fewer children when the one-child policy was first implemented (as evidenced by the fact that fertility rates had already begun to fall in the 1970s), although at the time, they were not necessarily ready to be told how many children they were permitted to have. And young women, who have lived with the one-child policy all their lives, seemed reconciled to having few children. However, regardless of which generation they are a part of, women have all felt pressure to have sons.

Women did not view family planning in a vacuum, but related it to the country's economic situation. Even within the very different economic and social contexts of the three provinces, women saw family planning as a means of helping women (and men) take advantage of China's improved economic situation by not being tied down or having too many children to feed and clothe. Overall, the women in our study felt positive about having smaller families, believing that family planning has enabled them to get ahead economically...

Has family planning had an effect on China's gender system? Ding Ling, one of China's most famous feminist writers, noted in the early 1940s that "The party has proclaimed lofty theories of gender equality, but failed to deal with actual conditions and attitudes that held women in an inferior condition." In our study, few women disputed that women's lives were better now than in the past; however, we found evidence that an entrenched gender system favors males and that constraining couples' childbearing has exacerbated the effects of son preference.

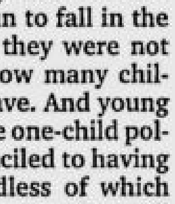
* * *

THESE findings are supported by Chinese feminists who generally note that family planning has had beneficial effects on women's lives but has not been sufficient to change gender norms. In China, females are less likely to be born, and even to survive. Women in rural areas do not carry on the family line and do not inherit property. They leave home after marriage, work and carry the burden of taking care of their children and household, in addition to taking almost sole responsibility for family planning. China's skewed sex ratio provides strong continued evidence of the entrenched social valuing of sons over daughters.

However, our results show some signs of change. Over the past two decades, some women have had wider opportunities to work. Because of the increased economic contribution of women, decision-making within families may be becoming more of a joint endeavor, and younger focus-group participants from each province noted that the preference for sons is decreasing (although not disappearing) among their generation...

Our study found that although women by and large welcome the idea of family planning, they have not always received good care by their local program. Following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China began shifting its program toward a client-centered approach... The program ... now provides better quality care and a choice among contraceptive methods, in addition to an expanded range of reproductive health services.

Making sense of the universe



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN people asked me how and why I took history as a profession, my standard answer used to be that I did not like the way it was taught to me. In retrospect, that observation was grossly unfair because there were a handful of teachers who really taught me to appreciate history.

Looking back, I can say that I went into history partly because of Shakespeare. We took one of his plays in each of our four years of high school: "Merchant of Venice," "Romeo and Juliet," "Macbeth" and another one whose title I cannot, for the life of me, recall now.

Of course, to appreciate Shakespeare one has to watch a play, and to understand you must listen to his words. But we were stuck with books. So there we were, bored horny boys forced to read Shakespeare and grapple with what appeared to be very odd English.

If we thought that was bad, it got worse in junior year when we were tormented with Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" in Middle English! (These days I tell my students that one of the gifts of education is the ability to endure boredom.)

How did I cope while my classmates slept, talked or drew rude pictures on their books? We used Folger editions of Shakespeare which had the text of the play on the right side of the book facing the most detailed and obscure (I think the proper word is "erudite") annotations I had ever seen in my life. I was so thrilled by all the useless information and ancient illustrations that I forgot about the play.

Later in life, as a Benedictine monk, my attention was again distracted by commentaries on the Bible and the Rule of Benedict. I asked myself how come we don't have a critical edition of Rizal's novels? Before I could embark on this magnum opus, the abbot, sensing this unusual scholarly bent, advised me to study harder since I was to lay off Philippine history and produce learned commentaries on St. Bernard.

Now that I am collating my notes toward a critical edition of Rizal, I often look back and contemplate the road not taken. Maybe if my Latin and Greek were as fluent as my English, perhaps I would be some place else today, doing something completely different. Spanish was the key to unlocking Philippine history. I did not possess the tools for medieval history.

The turning point came in the great monastery of Montserrat in the mountains outside Barcelona. I was chatting with young monks who told me to consider transferring from Manila to Montserrat. Look, they said, if you were a monk of Montserrat you would get a key to the library.

This, definitely, was an irresistible carrot on a stick. Then they invited me to joint them for coffee, where one of the monks shared his insights on the tonalities of a double alleluia in a 13th-century manuscript he was studying. Now that was really esoteric.

After that, I knew my vocation was to do Philippine history. I have never turned back since, although I have recently dipped into medieval lore to entertain a niece who reads Harry Potter.

Till Harry Potter came along, I wouldn't think grade school children in the Philippines would care about banshees, basilisks, griffins, Mandrake roots and philosopher's stones. When my niece asked for a sleeping spell in Latin, I taught her to chant, *"dormicum, valium, ativan"* (which she will learn one day are modern tranquilizers that work faster than magic).

All this medieval lore led me to a translation of a Latin bestiary of the 12th century by T.H. White, author of "The Once and Future King." What I found intriguing were not so much the mythical creatures like the unicorn or the satyr but what 12th-century people thought of creatures we all know today like the elephant. The world was different eight centuries ago and what passed for natural history and zoology was a curious mix of fact, fiction and religion. One cannot be grateful enough for Discovery Channel and National Geographic Channel that bring so much wildlife into the comfort of our homes today. In the middle ages, you had to turn to monasteries for information.

Elephants were thus called because of their size, the Greek word for mountain being *eliphio*. Persians and Indians went to war atop these beasts, hurling javelins from them as they would from castle towers. Elephants were said to remain pregnant for two years and live 300 years. They did not have sex and reproduction resulted when the male gathered Mandrakes and fed them to the female.

Drawing from other medieval sources, T.H. White wrote in a footnote: "The copulation of elephants was a matter for speculation in the dark ages and still is, as it is rarely witnessed. Solinus quotes Pliny to the effect that their genitals, like those mentioned by Sir Thomas Browne in his note on hares, were put on backward. It was supposed that, being modest, they preferred to look the other way while they were about it. Albertus Magnus held that they copulated like other quadrupeds, but that, owing to the great weight of the husband, he either had to dig a pit for his wife to stand in or else he had to float himself over her in a lake, where his gravity would naturally be less. In fact, they copulate in the ordinary way and, according to Lt. Col. C.H. Williams, more gracefully than most."

Most of these bestiaries were written and copied by monks, which may explain the obsessive attention to mating habits. Reading bestiaries in hindsight makes us appreciate 12th-century people making sense of the universe.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Is parenting natural and instinctive?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SOME of my foreign visitors have a rather unusual, and terribly unpleasant, welcome to Manila. Driving into the city from the airport, they go through Roxas Boulevard where they are greeted by swarms of women beggars carrying infants to soften up the visitors' hearts. The visitors ask, "How can a mother send her infant out into the streets?"

It's a question I've asked myself as well, not just when I see these infants used as props for begging. And it's a question we have to ask ourselves as well in relation to the current debate concerning family planning.

All too often, I hear anti-family planning groups saying that all we need is more faith in God. They bring out parents with eight or nine children and ask them to describe how they were able to raise all the children through college, and look, they're now all working abroad. The unspoken message in this argument is that parenting is "natural" and "instinctive," so all this talk of birth spacing is nonsense. If our grandparents could do it, without family planning, why can't we?

Maternal instincts

Certainly, we've seen this maternal instinct in animals—and how powerful it can be, to the extent that mother animals will kill to defend their young. From biology and medicine, we know the maternal instinct is powerful, the product of elaborate physiological mechanisms. The sight of an infant—not even our own—sends most people, males and females, going, "Oh, how cute," a response to stirred-up nurturing instincts. It's a cognitive trait that's been commercially exploited in many strange ways, from baby posters to Japanese Hello Kitty-type cartoon images and the breeding of toy dog breeds. The beggars toting babies in the streets exploit this instinct as well.

Another example comes with the production of breast milk. New mothers know how breast milk is produced profusely at the sight of an infant, sometimes not even their own. This "let-down reflex"—the brain sending signals to produce a hormone for milk production—is sometimes stimulated even by the cry of a baby.

Maternal love

One could go on and on with examples of these instinctive, "natural" aspects of nurturing. Yet, I would argue, too, that there is a difference between maternal instincts and maternal love. The instincts, the "natural" nurturing drive, can be all too brief, as we see in animals, so brief that we can't really speak of a "parent-child" bond ever emerging. You take away puppies from the mother and she looks for them—for a day or two, and that's it.

Humans and perhaps our primate relatives (apes, monkeys) seem to be able to build a longer lasting bond that involves more than hormones. Apparently, the bonding takes many forms, and maybe in cases, it may never happen. Fathers disappear even after seeing the newborn child. Mothers can't do that quite easily, but we see how they can send their babies into the streets.

If it's any consolation, such cases of inhumanity are not limited to the Philippines. I've seen child beggars all over the world, but even more horrendous are reports of child-trafficking. In the more benign cases, the children are sold for adoption. In other cases, the trafficking is much more sinister. Children from South Asian countries, for example, have been sold by their parents and exported to other neighboring countries, and as far as the Middle East, for all kinds of purposes: little boys to become jockeys in camel races, girls to become prostitutes. Others become beggars, their legs broken before they are put out in the streets.

Death without weeping

Back in 1985, Nancy Scheper-Hughes, an American anthropologist, stirred controversy with her study of Brazilian urban slums, where she found that mothers seemed to lack affection for their infants, almost maintaining a certain distance from them.

Scheper-Hughes' study did help to contextualize what seemed to be a lack of maternal or parenting sentiments. In the case of the Brazilian mothers, Scheper-Hughes pointed out that infant death rates were extremely high in the slums, so the mothers' detachment from their infants may have been a kind of defense mechanism. In 1991, Scheper-Hughes put her findings together in a book entitled "Death Without Weeping," referring to the way the urban poor mothers would respond to the death of an infant. If, on the other hand, the baby survived beyond infancy, the mother would strengthen her bonds with the child.

Perhaps we are seeing a similar phenomenon in the Philippines, or in the cases of South Asians selling off their children. While I am a firm believer in the presence of parenting instincts, especially for mothers, I am also convinced society "modulates" these instincts, decreasing them in cases where children are seen as a burden or a potential cause of grief, and increasing, or even amplifying, them where children come into the world wanted, with a more secure future.

Culture all too quickly reinforces the negative. It isn't just a matter of beggars with children in the streets. The more children they see roaming the streets and malls rather than being in schools, the more parents begin to think that such neglect is "natural" and acceptable. Parenting norms change all the time, for the better as well as for the worse.

The other week, I talked with a young woman who was to leave in two weeks to work as an entertainer in Japan. She had delivered a baby a month earlier, a son which she was going to leave with the child's grandmother. She was almost nonchalant as she described the infant, being born underweight, and how she didn't have any milk to give. "Not a drop," she sighed.

She then described a friend who had also just had a baby, in much better circumstances with the support of family and friends. "Oh, you should see the baby—only a week old and she was as big as my baby and just never seemed to stop breast-feeding." For a minute, it seemed her maternal instincts were emerging, but I knew, too, those instincts were tinged with sadness as she realized she would soon have to leave her own infant.

I was angry, not at her for leaving the child, but at the way we've become so hypocritical, calling on Filipinos to reproduce, to accept "God's blessings" without question and then sending them off into harm's way, to Japan and to Iraq.

Let's begin to move beyond the rhetoric of "responsible parenting" (now often used to obscure the need for family planning) and ask what parenting itself actually means, besides having babies. For starters, we might want to think again about this young woman leaving for Japan. Can we blame her if she, too, steels her heart, especially when she remembers that the father of the infant was a married man, one of the "guests" she had while going through her on-the-job training for Japan?

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Shifting blame away from globalization

THE ARROYO administration is deluding itself—and the people—if it expects to create six to 10 million jobs in the next six years within the framework of globalization.

For within globalization's cage—as defined by liberalization, deregulation, privatization and level playing field—what we are bound to witness in the coming months and years is the further decimation of jobs in industry and agriculture.

Within this year (2004), all international and regional agreements designed to level down tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, in and out of the Asean, are scheduled to take full effect. These are the Asean Free Trade Area and Apec Free Trade Zone, in addition to the covenants of the World Trade Organization. The outcome of the 147-nation trade talks in Geneva, focused on further agriculture liberalization, would also have a critical impact.

Some quarters sense in the rescue of Angelo de la Cruz a backbone capable of defying the Coalition of the Willing. Unfortunately, that backbone is nowhere evident in the economic field. The State of the Nation Address was strictly in keeping with the pro-globalization orthodoxies.

The proposed two-child policy is outside globalization's framework, but essentially it is nothing but an attempt to shift the blame for poverty from globalization to a runaway libido. There is no other way of confronting globalization, as the one which some Southeast Asian countries—notably Malaysia and Thailand—have taken.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Unit 301 Union Square
Condominium,
145 15th Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City

RP should improve English proficiency

THE EUROPEAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines is eager to promote the Philippines as Asia's hub for information technology-enabled services. But the country's education sector must first hasten to improve its proficiency in the use of the English language. During our business review for 2003, potential investors in the IT field—call centers, business process outsourcing (BPO), software development and back office operations—raised a number of questions on this matter.

Foremost among these is that English must be restored as a primary language if the country wishes to become a major competitor in the IT-enabled services. It's a known fact that proficiency in English is one of the major requirements international clients look for when eyeing an outsourcing business partner.

We believe outsourcing ICT services is the most likely segment where the country can benefit in the short to medium term. And as the global ICT market continues to grow, we at the ECCP are determined to stay involved in the creation of a bridge between the IT outsourcing demand in Europe and the supply side in the Philippines to help the country get a slice of the European ICT market.

Our effort toward this direction has resulted in the establishment of the European IT Service Center engaged in IT training. It also provides the platform for European SMEs in the IT sector wishing to establish companies in the Philippines.

It is sad to say that the "pearl" in education in Asia some 30-40 years ago has fallen terribly behind. The new administration must address this issue with urgency lest the Filipinos lose their advantage over other Asian countries.

—HENRY SCHUMACHER,
executive vice president,
European Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines,
19/F Axa Life Center,
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor.
Tindalo Street, Makati City

Leno forgot past record holders

JAY Leno's snide remark about our troops breaking the 100-meter dash record may be funny to those who come from the "home of the brave." But he could have been more candid if he mentioned the previous record holders: (1) The American troops pulling out of Somalia in 1993 after Somalis killed 18 US rangers; (2) The American troops withdrawing from Lebanon in 1983 following severe casualties to the US forces; and (3) The American hostages fleeing Iran in 1981 following an arms-for-hostages deal forged by the US government with terrorists.

No less than Pope John Paul II has told President George W. Bush to pull out of Iraq. The Americans think they're so brave, perhaps, not even the Lord God can scare them!

—ERROL ZSHORNACK,
589 Colgate St.,
Greenhills East,
1556 Mandaluyong City

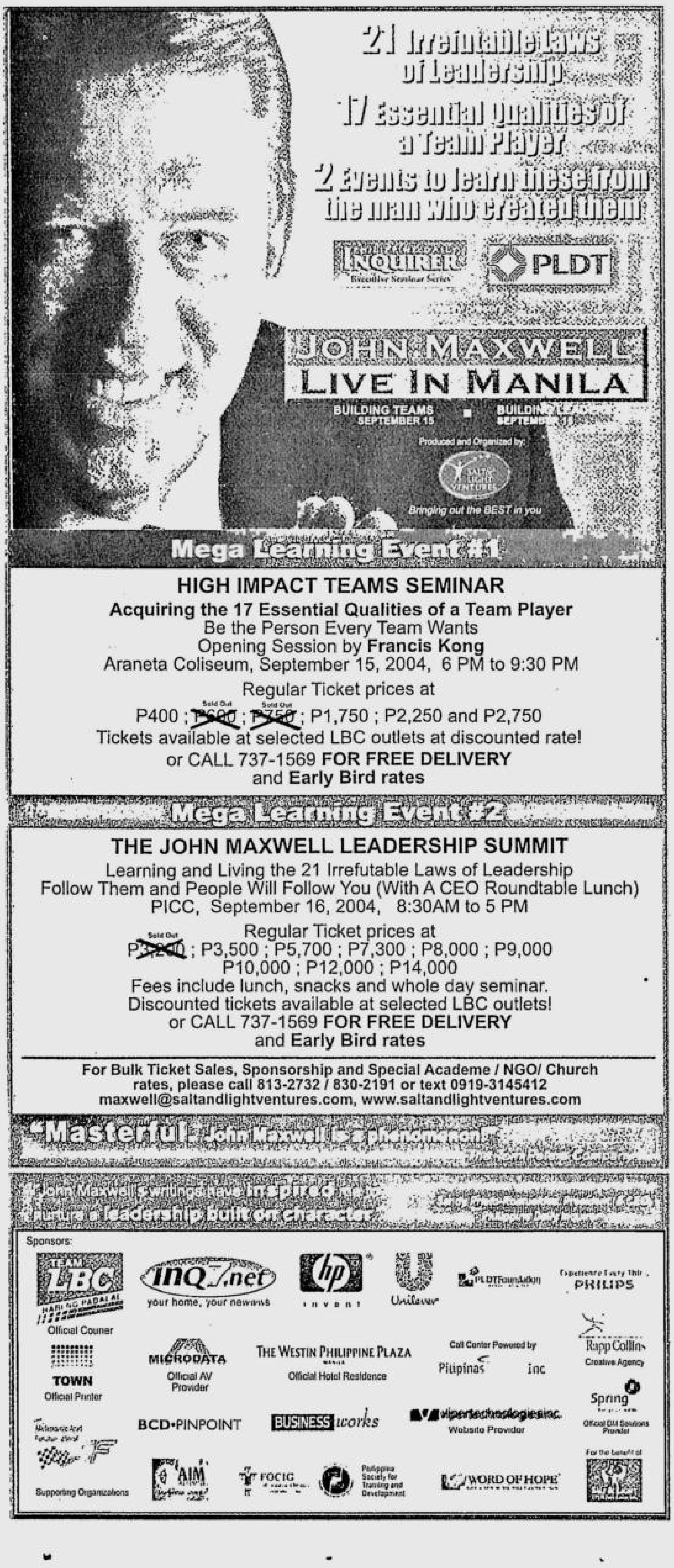
How about 'pink urinals' for women?

ACCORDING to Maita Vasquez of Mandaluyong City, there is a growing public clamor for the removal of those unsightly and stinking "pink urinals" that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority installed around the metropolis. (PDI, Letters, 7/21/04)

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando did the right thing in installing the public urinals for men. For one, they help decongest overcrowded comfort rooms in shopping malls, fast-food chains and bus terminals.

Maybe to appease Vasquez, Fernando should also install women's urinals. That way, he cannot be accused of discrimination.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
92 Paraiso St., Parang,
Marikina City



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Malabon residents seek mayor's help against thieves, robbers

WE, residents of Barangay Acacia, Malabon City, are thankful to the city government for the efficient daily collection of garbage and for its continuing efforts to upgrade Pascual Street and M.H. del Pilar Avenue.

But we also would like to ask the help of Mayor Tito Oreta to stop the high incidence of thefts and robberies in our barangay. Our water meter was stolen in broad daylight. When we reported the case to the barangay, we discovered that we were the fourth victim that day. On Simon Street, there was a "bag snatching" incident in which the victim was a factory worker going home after a hard day's work.

—ELVIRA BONGCO
AND CONCERNED CITIZENS,
Simon Street, Barangay Acacia,
Malabon City

For the President from the CBCP

IN ADDITION to the 10-point agenda enunciated by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice & Peace, submits to the Arroyo administration the following recommendations:

- Fortify the lifestyle check campaign. We would like to see the Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission no longer suffering from shortage of lawyers and investigators, so that prosecutions and convictions will proceed with dispatch without compromising due process.
- Refrain from legalizing illegal gambling, especially *jueteng*. Gambling, especially the illegal ones, further impoverishes the poor, fuels corruption and weakens morals.
- Assess the impact of the membership of the Philippines in the World Trade Organization—whether the Filipino people have benefited or lost from trade liberalization, deregulation and privatization.
- Study the planned Charter change—is it guided by the desire to improve the Filipino's quality of life, or to further liberalize the Philippine economy in surrender to pressures from multilateral institutions?
- Judiciously use the P38 billion recovered Marcos wealth to implement the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and to compensate the human rights victims of the Marcos regime; and the recently-recovered 27 percent of the coco levy funds, to revive the coconut industry. Also, relentlessly work to reclaim other assets that remain in crony hands.
- Review the "farmland-as-collateral bills." They may give farmers' access to loans but they could also enable former landowners to reacquire foreclosed lands and reconsolidate their landholdings.
- Rescind the policy allowing the commercialization of Bt corn in the country in view of the lack of conclusive scientific studies vouching for the safety of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to human health and the environment.
- Review Executive Order 270 (National Policy Agenda on Revitalizing Mining in the Philippines) and stop the solicitor general from contesting the Supreme Court decision nullifying the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement provisions of the Mining Act of 1995. Profit motive must never supersede national patrimony and ecological integrity.
- Abolish the purchased power adjustment (PPA) by voiding government's onerous contracts with independent power producers (IPPs). Honestly tell the public the result of the review of 35 IPP contracts.
- Certify as urgent bills establishing a debt cap, proscribing political dynasties, engendering transparency in campaign funds, and professionalizing and regulating legislative lobbying.

The Filipino people have suffered a lot. Momentary relief will not do. Long-lasting solutions are called for. Political will is long overdue.

—ROEL A. ANDAG,
advocacy program coordinator,
National Secretariat
for Social Action-Justice &Peace,
470 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila

A challenge to all OFWs and their children

NOW that Angelo de la Cruz is safe, allow me to share with the INQUIRER readers—especially the families of overseas Filipino workers—the death of my father, also an OFW, in Iraq.

We were told he died on Sept. 11, 1983, during the Iran-Iraq war, in an unknown hospital in Basrah for reasons we never came to know about. We were told he died of neglect; as it was the wounded Iraqi soldiers who were given priority. My father, a carpenter, was sent to Iraq in March 1983. I was then a 17-year-old, second year high school student.

Poverty left us with no choice but to accept the hard reality of his death, and we had to be contented with just bringing his dead body back to Manila. That would have been impossible, if not for an uncle, who was then with the Air Force. The military helped bring my father's remains home; since then, I have very high regard for the men in uniform.

With no means to pursue my education, I decided to take the entrance examination at the Philippine Military Academy. The PMA was my only hope for a better future. Life was tough inside the academy, but I said to myself, I'd rather die than give up. My father's death served as my challenge and inspiration. His letter telling his sons to study hard still hangs on the wall of our house. He is dead, but his dreams will continue to live in his family.

As the death of my father closed a very important door for me, a new one opened. I thank God I was not blinded by hatred. I entered the PMA in 1988 and graduated in 1992. I am now serving as chief inspector at the Philippine National Police. My mother is still a humble storekeeper in our hometown in Pangasinan and my three other brothers are all employed in the government.

I sympathize with the family of De la Cruz. I know the pain of losing somebody you depend on so much. It's as if all doors are closing on you. How many OFWs have died in Iraq, in the Middle East or other parts of the world working to give their families a future?

The more important message I wish to impart to the families of OFWs, especially the children who are lucky to be in school by the blood, sweat and tears of the millions of Angelo de la Cruzes still out there, fighting to survive for their families in the face of all kinds of threats to their lives and sanity: I beg you to study hard, so that when you go abroad, you will not be in the ranks of the lowly employees but among the bosses. Better yet, study hard, and you will not need to go abroad to work away from your family. Study hard so that the sacrifices of your OFW parents will bear fruit.

And to the OFWs all over the world, to keep on communicating with your kids. Encourage your children to study hard. Do not give in to their whims and caprices, but rather invest in their education.

—ERIC ESCOSIO NOBLE,
police chief inspector,
Camp Rafael L. Crame, Quezon City

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DPWH plans to build 'flood-free' schools

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Department of Public Works and Highways has tapped Japan's general grants and aid program to do a first in Pampanga's rapidly sinking coastal towns: Build flood-free schools.

The design is simple. Each of the proposed 40 school buildings will stand on a hectare-wide lot that will be raised to 1.5 meters. A dike-like wall rings the elevated ground.

About 23,000 public elementary students in the project sites of Minalin, Macabebe and Masantol towns stand to gain in the effort. Students have been losing an average of 30 school days a year due to flooding, it was learned.

The new structures, which will have toilets and water pumps, may serve as evacuation centers in case of severe flooding, according to Emil Sadain, chief of the DPWH Mount Pinatubo Emergency Project Management Office.

The plan, worth P799.1 million, came in consideration of the floods that last from two to five months in the three coastal towns, Sadain said in his presentation to the Pampanga provincial board on Monday. The DPWH sought the endorsement of the provincial board.

Aside from being flood-prone because they are at the delta or mouth of the Pampanga River where 30 river systems in Central Luzon drain, these towns have also been sinking at an average of an inch yearly, Sadain said.

He said lahar has silted the delta and hampered the flow of floodwaters to the Manila Bay.

Japan has lent loans or extended grants to infrastructure projects mitigating the effects of lahar and floods in the provinces hit by the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Journalist hurt in collision

BACOLOD CITY—A journalist and his two companions were hurt Monday when their vehicle suddenly swerved and hit an acacia tree along the highway of Barangay Dulao, Bago City, Negros Occidental. Abe Florendo, a freelance tourism and travel writer, suffered injuries and was rushed to the Bacolod Sanitarium and Hospital. His two companions, former advertising executive Bambi Borromeo and Clem del Castillo, Bago City cultural officer and museum curator, were brought to the Riverside Medical Center. The three were on board a pickup driven by Del Castillo on their way to the Buenas Aires Resort in Bago City, 21.5 km south of this city. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Court decision hailed, hit

CALAPAN CITY—The court decision that put the former principal of the Jose Leido Memorial High School, Antonio Dilay, to jail for cutting down some 20 trees without permit, has been drawing mixed reactions here. Some were happy over the decision, but others could not believe that with many other cases of illegal logging in Mindoro reported by the media, not one illegal logger or an accomplice had been convicted until the case of Dilay. "The law, if not politicized, is [so] harsh it destroys a man's life," said a businessman here who refused to be identified. The principal's motion for bail was granted.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Death squad kills 4

DAVAO CITY—Suspected members of the vigilante group Davao Death Squad (DDS) killed four more persons since Saturday. The latest victim was a son of a businesswoman in Buhangin District, who was shot dead Tuesday morning inside a corner eatery near their house in Uraya Subdivision. Police identified the victim as Ryan Milan, 31, whose family owns a mini-grocery. On Saturday, three young men were also shot dead in a span of 10 hours. The victims were identified as Johnny Moneza alias Nelson Cotabato and Jack-jack, 20, a resident of Isla Verde; Zandro Bajala, 18, of Bankerohan; and Joel Alison, 19, of General Santos City. Moneza was a known gang leader in Isla Verde.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hot logs seized

DAVAO CITY—The police regional mobile group in Southern Mindanao seized P7-million worth of illegally cut logs and logging equipment in Monkayo, Compostela Valley on Friday. Supt. Aaron Aquino, mobile group commander, said they confiscated P2-million worth of illegal logs and P5-million worth of heavy and light equipment from alleged illegal loggers. The logs were intercepted at a checkpoint in Monkayo, while the pieces of equipment were confiscated in a follow-up operation. Aquino said the drivers identified the logs' owners as Dodong Baguio and Nonong Tizon, residents of Davao City. The recovered items were later turned over to Willy Jordan, the Community Environment and Natural Resources officer of Monkayo.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Floods displace 20,000 families

COTABATO CITY—A dozen towns in Maguindanao and three others in North Cotabato have been submerged in floodwater following four days of torrential rains in Central Mindanao.

The light yet continuous rainfall also caused the closure of the Isulan-Lebak highway for weeks now.

It has displaced some 20,000 families in Saudi Ampatuan, Pagalungan, Datu Montawal, Datu Piang, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Mamasapano, Shariff Aguak, Datu Unsay, Talitay, Sultan sa Barongis, Kabuntalan and SK Pendatun in Maguindanao after floodwater rose waist-deep since Monday, the Office of Civil Defense in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (OCD-ARMM) said.

Lita Enok, OCD-ARMM regional director, said hardest hit are low-lying towns in Maguindanao near the Liguasan Marsh.

The displaced families are housed temporarily in various barangay halls and public schools leading to the suspension of classes in most of the affected areas.

Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan has ordered the release of rice and other relief items to the evacuees.

Engineer Norie Unas, Maguindanao provincial administrator, also appealed to other government relief agencies to come to the rescue, especially health workers, to prevent the spread of diseases.

In North Cotabato, the villages of Pigcawayan, Libungan and Alamada were also submerged in floodwaters from the Liguasan Marsh.

The flooding comes when water flowing down the Rio Grande de Mindanao meet seawater during high tide.

Agriculture officials still have to assess the damage brought about by flooding to thousands of hectares of ready-to-harvest agricultural products.

The vast Liguasan Marsh serves as catch basin for water from the Daguma Ranges in Sultan Kudarat, Alah River in South Cotabato and tributaries in the borders of Maguindanao, Bukidnon and North Cotabato.

The road linking Isulan to Lebak, both in Sultan Kudarat, was also blocked by a landslide.

Fr. John Howard, a missionary assigned in Kulaman town, said the landslide crippled the economy of his town and its agriculture sector.

"No more fuel in town, prices of commodities shot up and worse, farmers lost revenues as perishable agri-products rot for lack of transportation to the market place," Howard said.

"We appeal to the road contractor, the provincial government and our national officials to address our problem here," he said.

"Had it happened before elections, surely the landslide could have been quickly removed," he added. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TONEE DESPOJO/CDN PHOTO

DISASTER
Nature recently wreaked havoc on Talisay City in Cebu. A strong whirlwind toppled houses and displaced villagers in Barangay Ramona Aug. 1.

Photo, name of wanted man don't match

ZAMBOANGA CITY—They did it again.

The Southern Command got it wrong again in the updated poster of wanted Abu Sayyaf members and leaders.

Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron said the photo of Nadzmi Sabtula alias Commander Global had Gumabahali Jumdail alias Abu Jumdail, Abu Pula and Abu Doctor's name printed below it.

"It's a big embarrassment to our military," Cabaron said, adding that no one, not even the intelligence community, noticed the difference.

Sabtula was arrested in General Santos City in 2002 while Jumdail fell into the hands of government troops two months ago.

Cabaron said the campaign would surely fail if the military continues to have no idea how the wanted bandit leaders look like.

As the military rejoiced the arrest of Binang Andang, a suspect in the kidnapping of American Jeffrey Schilling, the Department of Justice expressed reservation saying the man was not one of those identified to have participated in the abduction.

Instead, Cabaron said Andang was "wanted and charged" for the April 23, 2000 hostage-taking of 19 foreigners and two Filipinos in Sipadan, Malaysia.

Schilling, who was abducted in August 2000, had identified his captors as mainly Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Cabaron said Andang was part of the Sulu-based faction of the bandit group.

Cabaron said two Binang Andangs had already been brought to his office, and both turned out to be victims of mistaken identity when presented to witnesses. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

US Embassy denies ship dumped waste in Subic

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The US Embassy denied the dumping by any US ship of human waste into Subic Bay saying there appeared to be "misunderstanding."

American embassy spokeswoman Ruth Urry said that during a routine transfer of sewage from the ship to a waste disposal truck last week, a leak was noticed and the pumping stopped, an Agence France-Presse report said.

Officials said USS Russel was caught discharging human waste while anchored off Subic's Alava Pier but ship personnel allegedly accosted local officials taking pictures of the dumping.

An organization of Filipino toxic wastes victims and environment advocates protested the American government's "lack of responsibility to the lowest form of waste that its warship dumped into the Subic Bay in Zambales on July 27."

"That's pretty much the attitude of the United States military even in the US. That's why they are known to be the worst polluter in the world," said Myrla Baldonado, executive director of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup (PTFBC), referring to the contamination of overseas bases.

But the July 27 incident involving USS Russell, she said, was "record breaking," citing the type of waste that the US military "refused to clean up compared to the toxic and hazardous waste that were a necessary consequence" of the Visiting Forces Agreement-related exercises in the Philippines.

Baldonado said it was "more appalling" for Jerome Martinez, port operations division head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, to be "bowing to US pressure."

"That attitude has damaged the negotiations for the cleanup of US toxic wastes (at the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic in Zambales)," she said.

Martinez, who issued an incident report on the fecal discharge, later said they issued a wrong report about the incident.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk with AFP

Conviction of 'fall guy' in Ecleo murder case nullified

By Jolene Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Regional Trial Court has nullified the decision that convicted an alleged "fall guy" in the murder of Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Acting presiding Judge Leopoldo Cañete of RTC Branch 60 in Barili town, Cebu said the verdict of his predecessor Judge Idelfonso Suerte to sentence Cedric Devinadera for accessory to murder should be considered "non-existent."

In a seven-page decision, Cañete said Suerte acted without authority when he decided over the Devinadera case.

He cited an administrative order dated March 3, wherein the Supreme Court directed Cañete to preside over all newly filed cases in Suerte's sala starting January this year pending Suerte's application for retirement on Jan. 5 next year.

Despite the High Tribunal's order, Suerte took cognizance of the Devinadera case even if it was filed on March 29.

"With the foregoing legal consequences of a void judgment, all the effects of both the public prosecutor and defense counsel to resuscitate and give life to the infirm judgment of conviction of Judge Suerte are put to naught as well as their arguments along that point are rendered meaningless, if not, baseless," Cañete said.

He also remanded the Devinadera case to the Provincial Prosecutor's Office for further investigation and gave it 45 days to submit a report to the court.

The judge also advised the provincial prosecutor to coordinate with the Cebu City prosecutor who is handling the separate parricide case against cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

Ecleo, supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), is facing a separate parricide case pending before the RTC in Cebu City for killing his wife Alona.

Cañete's ruling was hailed by the surviving Bacolod family members who saw the conviction of Devinadera as an effort by Ecleo's camp to weaken the parricide case, and eventually free him from jail.

"We are very happy because we can proceed with the prosecution of the parricide case against our brother-in-law," said Angelito Bacolod.

Lawyer Gloria Lastimosa-Dalawampu, lawyer of the Bacolods, said Devinadera should be released from the provincial jail, now that Suerte's decision had been rendered null and void.

"We have a funny situation here. The court has already voided the judgment against Devinadera. The accused here is already free but it seems he doesn't want to be freed," she said.

Media groups condemn Ilocos radioman's murder

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines said the murder of local radio commentator Roger Mariano on Saturday and the other unsolved killings of journalists belie the government's rhetoric that press freedom is alive and well in the country.

Various media groups here have condemned the murder of Mariano and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare an end to the "culture of impunity" that has allowed attacks on journalists to continue.

"We urge journalists all over the country to close ranks and be vigilant. Let us protect ourselves from physical harm by arming ourselves with a high level of professionalism," said Jose Torres Jr., head of the NUJP's commission for the protection of journalists, in a statement.

"Even as we express our concern over the growing trend of intimidation, arrests and physical attacks, let us not be cowed. Let us continue to perform our duty and assert the people's right to know despite the intimidation," he said.

Local media groups also condemned the killing of Mariano, whom they considered as one of the pillars of the community media here.

"If they think that Mariano's death has silenced the press, they got it all wrong. More than ever, we will remain vigilant and perform our role as watchdogs," said Antonio Casimiro, manager of dzVR Bombo Radyo-Laoag.

Rick Lauricio, former Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas-Ilocos Norte chapter president, said despite Mariano's death, local reporters will continue doing what they do.

"We must continue our role as truth-seekers. Mariano's death must not deter us from fulfilling our mission," he said.

Lito Gorospe, media consultant of the Ilocos Norte provincial government, said those behind the murder have silenced a very brilliant voice against corruption.

"From my experience, (Mariano) could not be bought, which is rare nowadays," Gorospe said. "He is definitely a loss. The whole province is mourning for him. He had taken the cudgels for the poor on a personal level, considering he was not (rich)."

The NUJP said Mariano's murder brought to three the number of journalists killed this year. It said he was the 10th Filipino journalist murdered since 2003 and the 53rd since the restoration of democracy in 1986.

Mariano, anchor of the popular program "Roger Mariano in Action" at dzJC-Aksyon Radyo, was killed on Saturday night in San Nicolas town while driving his motorcycle on his way home to Dingras town.

His family and colleagues in the local media believe his death was a result of his critical reporting and commentaries against *jueteng*.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Dutch, English schoolchildren help fulfill young Aeta's dream

By Allan Macatuno
San Marcelino, Zambales

LIZA Diman-diman finds time to go back to her upland village in San Marcelino to inspire and help her fellow Aetas. PHOTO COURTESY OF LOTUS FOUNDATION

MILES and oceans away, Dutch and English schoolchildren are joining hands to fulfill the dream of a young Aeta who is strongly beating the odds to become the first midwife of her tribe.

From an upland village at the foot of the Mt. Pinatubo in San Marcelino, Zambales, the story of 21-year-old Liza Diman-diman has inspired pupils of a Catholic school in England to raise funds and help finance her studies, while students in the Netherlands continue to express their gratitude for her example.

Despite the lack of financial means to sustain her education, it was Diman-diman's determination to finish high school and eventually earn a college degree that has touched the heart of Dutch Irene Valenton, who looked for ways to realize the young Aeta's ambition.

While conducting a medical mission in a remote sitio of San Marcelino in 2002, Valenton met Diman-diman, a high school student then.

"She (Diman-diman) told us that her dream was to become a midwife but she had no money. I talked with one of her teachers, who asked his students to write an essay about their dreams," Valenton said.

No hindrance to success

Valenton was moved into tears when she learned that Diman-diman wrote in her essay the line: "Poverty is not a hindrance to success."

The Aeta girl finished her high school education through the help of her parents, who were tending a farm in their village.

Wearing slippers and clad in a pair of old school uniforms, Diman-diman had to walk from home to school everyday to attend her classes. It would take her about an hour walk to reach the school, and she did it during her entire elementary and high school days.

Not minding an empty stomach, Diman-diman always tried to excel in her studies and even received academic honors.

During rainy days, she and her younger brothers had to ride in a banca to ferry them to school since the Mapanuepe River in their village always swelled, submerging the plain areas.

"We almost drowned while passing the river because strong current battered and damaged the boat we were riding in," recalled Diman-diman, the eldest among four children.

At 19, Diman-diman had already learned how to do the traditional *hilot* (midwife) when she joined the Spanish Red Cross, which conducts medical missions in the mountains of Zambales.

"I have always wanted to become a midwife. I would like to be of great help to my community," Diman-diman said in Filipino.

Volunteer work

She said she voluntarily spent her time participating in various civic projects of the Spanish Red Cross because she wanted to help her fellow Aetas.

Aside from the P250 transportation and food allowance she was receiving from the group, Diman-diman barely had enough money to spend for the daily needs of her family.

She had also worked as a volunteer health worker for their village, assisting visiting doctors, nurses and social workers in conducting medical missions in nearby upland areas.

After finishing high school in 2002, Diman-diman found herself working as a house helper in Metro Manila. "I badly needed the job to support my parents and younger brothers. That is one thing that I could do to earn a living," she said.

"Liza is a symbol of hope and inspiration and it is such a blessing to find someone like her," Valenton said. She believed that Diman-Diman's character would encourage poor people everywhere to strive for a better life.

"In my own country, we are so spoiled. Nobody will die from hunger. The government is always there to help you. When you are sick, the national health (department) will take care of you. The government provides for schooling. It is a well-organized country," Valenton said.

After settling down in Zambales with her husband Nick and two children in 2002, Valenton lamented that she started to feel depressed.

Countering depression

"What depresses me most here is the poverty. I can smell it. I cannot turn away from it. In the Netherlands, I can switch off the television whenever I see poverty. But here, it is all around me and this is no longer a TV program that I can switch off," she said.

And rather than continue feeling depressed about it, Valenton told herself that she could do something to help them.

She started sharing Diman-diman's story to close friends and family back in The Netherlands, who also became interested in helping the girl.

"I expressed these feelings and thoughts with my family and friends back home through the newsletter that I wrote. And I got positive reactions. People wrote back and said they wanted to help," Valenton said.

Garry Blanch, Valenton's English friend, also learned of Diman-diman's situation and committed to do his share in sending the girl to college.

Valenton said Blanch felt that he was compelled to do something when he heard of the plight of Aeta communities in the Philippines, particularly those that were devastated by the eruption of Pinatubo in 1991.

"Blanch is full of enthusiasm about helping Liza and the rest of her community," she said.

Sharing the story

Inspired by Diman-diman's determination, the Englishman shared her story to children around his community in the southern part of the United Kingdom.

Blanch knew that the young girl's "will power" would always motivate children elsewhere to succeed despite all the challenges in their lives, Valenton said.

And Diman-diman's story did not fail to inspire these children. More than 200 preschool children support Diman-diman's schooling by donating at least one pound of their allowances every month. The contribution started last summer before Diman-diman enrolled in college.

At present, the pupils have collected at least P100,000 that will directly pay for Diman-diman's school expenses and provide her with daily allowance.

In a small community in Holland, schoolchildren of Enschedese SchoolVereniging are making arts together with professional artists of various disciplines. These works will be displayed in their school and the town's museum, while the money that will be raised will be donated for Diman-diman's tuition and school expenses.

Valenton said everybody in that school knows about Diman-diman's story and an article written in the school's newspaper also mentioned about the "inspiring" life of the girl.

Really amazing

"I was really amazed at how things went so fast. I still can't believe that someone as poor as me can still have the opportunity to reach my lifelong dream," Diman-diman said, expressing her gratitude to Valenton, who is taking care of her.

When she was facing challenges in her life, Diman-diman said she prayed hard that someone would help her enter college and realize her dream of becoming a licensed midwife.

"I never lose hope, especially during the toughest moments of my life. I firmly believe that nothing should hinder me from attaining my goal, not even hardship or poverty," she said.

The young Aeta girl from a village that was once covered with lahar is on her first semester at the Olongapo City College. She said the school has also become supportive of her.

"I feel blessed that many people in the other side of the world are helping me finish school and become a midwife. I thank them for believing in me and I will do my best not to fall short of their expectations," she said.

Diman-diman also works as a volunteer worker of the Lotus Foundation, a nongovernment organization co-founded by Valenton that seeks to help the indigents of Zambales by providing medical assistance, education and livelihood projects.

Vocas: An alternative art center of the North

By Donna Demetillo
Baguio City

TAKE six flights of a spiral staircase up the La Azotea building on Session Road in Baguio City, and you are transported to a different world.

Singer/songwriter Joey Ayala once called it the ship of Captain Hook because of the sense of fantasy it gives. For many, it is simply a rare space for respite from the city's traffic and crowd.

The space, "Vocas," is the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space, established in memory of the late Victor Oteyza, one of the Thirteen Modernists in the 1950s.

Last week, the art space was opened to house the creative treasures of the Cordillera and Northern Luzon.

Oteyza and other artists like Hernando Ocampo, Vicente Manansala and Cesar Legaspi ushered in Philippine modern art during the postwar years, and were called the "Thirteen Modernists."

Because of the raging debate then between conservative and modern art, the paintings attracted attention and encouraged Lydia Arguilla to establish the Philippine Art Gallery (PAG) in the 1950s that aimed to promote modern art.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines continues to give the Thirteen Awards to young artists in honor of these pioneers.

Alternative filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, a nephew of the late Oteyza, said his uncle was first an engineer at the University of the Philippines before he became involved in advertising.

Oteyza also pioneered radio dramas, such as "Ilaw ng Tahanan" and "Gulong ng Palad."

"But he was an artist at heart," Tahimik said.

Memorial

Vocas was conceptualized by Tahimik 10 years ago as a memorial to Oteyza. Tahimik said his uncle, as one of the heirs to La Azotea, a family-owned building, deserved a space, and the idea of converting the building's rooftop into a community art center was born.

Two years ago, Tahimik started building the project, putting to use his own rules of alternative architecture.

"I had no formal architectural training. I studied at the '*pukpok-tastas*' school of architecture. Like my films with no script, this art space was created without any plan, without a blueprint," he said.

Tahimik had to work with available materials, such as pieces of wood, and fit them together, trying not to cut nor chisel away any portions.

THE VICTOR Oteyza Community Art Space gives artists and art lovers a new home in Baguio City. EV ESPIRITU

If the wood arrangement did not work despite adjustments, this was when he ripped it (*tastas*). He put them back another way until he was satisfied with the shape. "Only then do we bolt and lock the structure (*pukpok*)," he said.

Tahimik said the trial-and-error process was less time-efficient compared with standard architecture, where everything is done according to pre-studied measurements. But he said the result of this process was the uniqueness of the art space.

'Global village'

The architecture captures a village atmosphere intermingling designs of Russian towers, Spanish architecture, an old Ifugao hut, and taverns with rooftop gardens surrounding a plaza to create what Tahimik calls a "global village."

Rocks and wood pieces of all shapes and sizes that suggest *pawikan* (sea turtles) or lizards are scattered throughout the village and are delightful discoveries as one goes around exploring.

Logs that Tahimik gathered from Baguio's streets after storms and recycled as posts sprout leafy stems that blend with other plants, giving the plaza an outdoor feel.

At the center of this village is a charming little wooden bridge above a pond of water lilies with an imposing Japanese water mill beside that recycles pond water.

Vocas also features the most interesting restrooms in town with broken tiles put together by artists to form bright and colorful assorted shapes on walls and floors.

Tahimik's son, Kawayan de Guia, and his artist friends keep the place teeming with energy by playing music and providing exhibits in the art gallery.

Veggie resto

It must be the search for the elusive galleon in Tahimik's 20-year-in-the-making film about Magellan and his slave, Enrique de Malacca, which inspired the galleon-like structure that is now a vegetarian restaurant in Vocas.

The restaurant "Oh My Gulay!" serves heaps of surprises with playful names ("Anak ng Putanesca," "Chili no Carne," etc.).

Chairs are of crazy designs and art music complements the entire rustic atmosphere. Diners can enjoy the sunset and the changing colors of the city's skyline while eating at the balcony.

"I hope (Vocas would) eventually become an art center of the North," Tahimik said.

Ex-Abu hostage confirms AFP collusion

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"strong circumstantial evidence to support the allegation of collusion" and recommended the court martial of three officers.

As far as Malacañang and the military are concerned, reviving the connivance issue is like beating a dead horse but, if it is, it appears to be one dead horse that keeps on kicking.

Saying Burnham could provide "additional information" on alleged military connivance with the Abu Sayyaf, Sen. Serge Osmeña said yesterday he was considering seeking the reopening of a Senate inquiry on this matter.

And Burnham should be asked to testify at such an inquiry, Osmeña added.

Major contribution

"Mr. Recio's testimony was a major contribution to the committee report and recommendations," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of the defense committee, said in a telephone interview yesterday.

The controversy over the issue of alleged military-Abu Sayyaf connivance was revived last week when Burnham testified before a special court hearing the kidnapping for ransom charges against several detained Abu Sayyaf members.

Prosecutors admit errors

Department of Justice prosecutors sparked an uproar when they told reporters, who were not allowed to cover the testimony, that Burnham had testified that there was "no collusion" between the military and her captors.

A court video later showed that Burnham said no such thing when she was asked by defense lawyers if, indeed, there was a connivance.

The video showed she never got a chance to answer because the judge upheld prosecution objections to the defense question.

DOJ prosecutors later admitted they had erred. But they also said that Burnham did admit she had no personal knowledge of any connivance between the military and the Abu Sayyaf but she said that during a pre-trial meeting with the prosecution.

Recio, his wife Divine and son RJ, sister-in-law Angie, along with New Tribes missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and fellow American Guillermo Sobero, were among the 20 people abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27, 2001.

The Recio couple and their son managed to get away when shooting broke out between the Abu Sayyaf and soldiers, who had cornered the bandits at the Jose Maria Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan.

What book says

The escape of the Abu Sayyaf during the Lamitan siege prompted accusations that some military officers were in cahoots with the bandits.

BURNHAM: What about other victims?

RECIO: Not Divine Revelation

Burnham was rescued a year later during a military operation in which her husband and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap were killed.

In a book she wrote about her captivity, "In the Presence of My Enemies," Burnham said she found it odd that the military did not pursue the Abu Sayyaf after they slipped out of the Lamitan hospital.

She also wrote that, while in captivity, she was told that one general wanted to have a 50-percent cut of the ransom being demanded by the Abu Sayyaf in exchange for the hostages.

No support

Some of Osmeña's colleagues in the Senate were not keen about reviving the Senate inquiry on the Abu Sayyaf-AFP collusion.

Fellow opposition Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson said that the Senate had other more important matters to take up than resurrecting the Lamitan incident.

Biazon and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. also were not interested.

Only Minority Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was supportive of Osmeña's plan but he, too, admitted that he was not certain whether the other senators would support it.

Osmeña expressed dismay at what he said was the way the government seemed to have "sanitized" the testimony of Burnham last week.

"The government is hiding something so they want to sanitize her testimony," Osmeña said. "They wanted to prevent her from testifying on what she knew about the alleged collusion."

Osmeña said Burnham could provide additional information on the allegations given that she was at the center of the hostage drama.

"She has no reason to lie," he added.

Asked whether the Senate should then reopen the inquiry, Osmeña said that he would talk first with Magsaysay and Biazon.

But he said he would consider filing a resolution that would reopen the probe.

"We just can't sweep this under the rug," Osmeña said.

He said Burnham could be invited to the Senate inquiry or a Senate panel could be sent to the United States to get her testimony, if ever.

Glaring mistake

On its part, Malacañang yesterday indicated it had no desire to revisit the issue if investigators had no new proof to justify the reopening of the case.

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that the Senate and the Armed Forces had already made a separate investigation and "unless there is new evidence, it is best to leave issue behind."

Bunye said discussing the issue was like "beating a dead horse." "Let's stop cruelty to horses," Bunye said.

Bunye was inundated by questions about how President Macapagal-Arroyo could make a glaring mistake when she issued a statement thanking Burnham for clearing the military, based solely on press reports.

2nd time

This was the second time that Ms Arroyo appeared to have acted with unseemly haste on an unverified information in less than a month.

Last month, she also prematurely told the family of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz that he had been released by his Iraqi captors.

"I think this is something we could leave behind. The important thing is the President has acknowledged the presence and participation and courage of Mrs. Gracia Burnham as far as pursuing the fight against terrorism," Bunye said. "The President has expressed what she needs to express, we can attend to more important things now."

No sanctions

Bunye said Ms Arroyo was unlikely to take action against the DOJ prosecutors who fed the media a wrong information about Burnham's testimony.

He denied insinuations that Ms Arroyo was in a rush to clear the military.

"The President made the statement based on information available at the time. We responded based on our belief that the papers were credible," said Bunye. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

2 more JI suspects behind LRT bombings arrested

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"Paks and Amir were identified to be responsible for the bombing in the Light Rail Transit in Manila and a bus in Quezon City in 2000," Lt. Col. Bienvenido Pascual, an Army spokesperson, was quoted by Reuters as saying.

The two men allegedly had prepared the bombs along with senior Indonesian JI leaders, including Riduan Isamuddin, alias Hambali, and Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, who was killed by security forces in Mindanao last October three months after escaping from Camp Crame.

Police intelligence sources told Reuters that Paks and Amir belonged to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's special operations group headed by Muklis Yunos, who was arrested in Cagayan de Oro City while trying to board a domestic flight to Manila in May 2003.

"The arrest of the two MILF members will help complete the jigsaw puzzle we are trying to put together in the investigation of the Rizal Day bombings in 2000," said a police intelligence official, who asked not to be identified.

Only 2 still at large

Only two among 10 suspects in the series of bomb attacks—Ustadz Said and Salman Moro—remain at large.

Hambali was arrested in Thailand last year, while Malaysian resident Faiz Abubakar Bafana was detained in Singapore in connection with a terrorist plot to blow up American, British and Australian targets in that city.

The Rizal Day bombings were closely coordinated with the Christmas Day bombings of Christian churches in Indonesia in 2000, an indication that JI had planned, funded and carried out the attacks in the two Southeast Asian countries, the police intelligence official said.

Pascual said Paks and Amir had been brought to Manila for interrogation and would join Yunos at a maximum detention center inside the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

Yunos had earlier pleaded guilty to the charge that he helped plan the Rizal Day bombings, but later retracted his confession.

MILF ties

The MILF has been fighting government troops in Mindanao, demanding independence for Muslim areas. The rebel group, which is holding peace talks with the government, has publicly rejected terrorism and has denied allegations that it shelters JI members.

Washington has expressed deep concern over the reported presence of JI training camps in Central Mindanao and has deployed American counterterrorism troops to train and arm Filipino soldiers battling Moro militants and other insurgents.

Some 30 JI militants from Indonesia were monitored to have completed training on Mt. Cararao in Lanao del Sur last December, according to a police intelligence official.

The Jemaah Islamiyah, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network, is suspected of plotting to establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

JI militants have been blamed for several bomb plots and attacks across the region, including the Oct. 12, 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that killed 202 people.

Terror threats in US

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and Director Robert Delfin, the PNP intelligence chief, said there had been no recent report of a serious threat posed by JI militants in the country following Washington's decision to raise the terror alert in the United States.

On Sunday, US officials announced that terrorists had put under surveillance the New York Stock Exchange and The Citigroup Center in Manhattan, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington and Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark.

US officials sealed off some streets in New York, put financial employees in Washington through extra security checks, and added concrete barricades and a heavily armed presence in Newark, New Jersey, in response to the terrorist threat aimed at financial titans. Police said the restrictions would remain in effect Tuesday and would be reviewed daily. *(See related story in The World, Page A10.)*

All's quiet in RP

"We're quiet here in the Philippines," Ebdane told reporters. "If they (Americans) have a terror alert because they're seeing some threats, the situation's different here. It does not mean that because they're targets, we're targets as well."

He said there was no need to raise the terror alert level in the country, adding security measures and intelligence gathering were sufficient to thwart any terrorist attack.

Even so, Malacañang urged Filipinos abroad, particularly those in the United States, to take the necessary precautions against a terror attack.

"The Philippine government does not take this new threat lightly," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement. "All Filipinos abroad are best forewarned to undertake extra precautions for their safety and that of their families."

Be careful

For its part, the Department of Foreign Affairs urged Filipinos in the US East Coast not to take for granted the raising of the terror alert level by Washington.

"We normally tend to be complacent after several alert warnings were issued and then nothing happened. There's a danger in being complacent," Assistant Foreign Secretary for American Affairs Ariel Abadilla told reporters.

"They should keep their eyes and ears open. They should be careful in their comings and goings. They should be aware of the guidelines issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency," Abadilla added. *With reports by Christian V. Esguerra, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Jerome Aning, Reuters, AP and AFP*

Candles burn bright for final surgery of RP twins in New York

From page A1

nal—and alarmingly delicate surgery to separate them.

Evelindia left for New York to be with her eldest daughter Arlene, the twins' mother, in the crucial operation at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. She was accompanied by Philippine Airlines Foundation executive director Ma Carmen Sarmiento.

"Please pray for the successful separation of the twins," the Aguirre family has appealed to relatives and neighbors in Barangay Rizal in Silay, 14.4 km north of here.

Undying faith

Before she left, Evelindia had instructed her other children, Andy and Azela, to keep the candle lighted near the pictures of the twins on the altar. This represents the undying faith of Evelindia and her husband Fernando, 55, that someday, Carl and Clarence will come home, separately walking toward them.

Evelindia resigned from her job as a payroll clerk in an agriculture-based company in 2002 to take care of the twins. It pained her to see her grandchildren lying on their backs, unable to walk because they are connected in the head.

Fernando, a former truck driver, put together a makeshift bamboo crib for the twins, which he hung from the beams of the house with a rope like a hammock so it would be easier to rock them to sleep.

CANDLES of hope and prayers are kept burning in the family home in Silay City, Negros Occidental of 22-month old twin brothers as doctors in the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York perform today the fourth and possibly the final surgery to separate Clarence and Carl. REUTERS

at Montefi
tal
re

DIRECTOR of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Dr. James Goodrich, last February uses an illustration to explain why it would take two more surgeries to do a delicate operation to separate twins. PDI PHOTO

Arlene was working as a nurse of a company in Manila when she gave birth to Carl and Clarence at the Philippine General Hospital on April 21, 2002. She found it difficult to raise the twins alone in Manila.

Chain of hope

She gave up her job and went home to Silay on Aug. 17, 2002.

The city's health officer, Debbie Lim, brought the case of the twins to the attention of the Philippine Pediatric Society-Negros Occidental where Dr. Ceres Baldevia-Gay is a member. Gay brought up the need to have the twins surgically separated to Sarmiento who, in turn, found ways to get medical help.

At that time, the twins were almost a year old and severely malnourished. They were also suffering from chronic aspiration pneumonia.

Sarmiento got in touch with Dorita Holland Urratta, Connecticut program manager of the Children's Chance Foundation, who sought the help of Dr. James Goodrich director of the Children's Hospital in Montefiore, New York.

Prayers

In September last year, Arlene and the twins left for New York where Carl and Clarence would undergo a series of operations.

They are scheduled to undergo tomorrow a daylong operation that could be the final step to their dream of living separate lives.

During the previous surgeries, Evelindia had said she offered a dozen eggs at the Carmelite Monastery in Bacolod for the doctor's success. Her family also gathers around the alter to pray.

"We can't do much for them out here, but we can continue to hope and pray," she had said.

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End near for 'ugly' PNP posts

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has started tearing down police outposts with no strategic importance, as well as those considered eyesores or obstructions to traffic.

First to go was the Police Community Precinct (PCP) 3 at the Bicutan Interchange in Parañaque City, which reportedly obstructed traffic near the South Luzon Expressway.

NCRPO chief Director Ricardo de Leon said the demolition of police outposts was part of the streamlining of the functions of personnel in the metropolis.

"Police personnel of decommissioned PCPs would be deployed in the streets for anti-crime and patrol operations and to augment existing police units in Metro Manila," De Leon said.

Police offices affected

Also affected by the streamlining are 732 lawmen doing administrative work. They will be replaced by non-uniformed personnel after they are assigned to street duty.

"The PCPs whose areas of jurisdiction overlap have resulted in the duplication of tasks among its officers," De Leon said.

He added, "This is the NCRPO's contribution to government efforts to ensure the efficient delivery of public services. This is one move to create a leaner and meaner machine to improve public service," he added.

To ensure that security in the communities is not compromised, De Leon said he already drafted plans for a "ronda system" which would send policemen from decommissioned PCPs to civilian barangay detachments.

Under the "ronda system," each barangay patrol unit would be placed under the supervision of a policeman.

A good cop is (not) hard to find

By Christian V. Esguerra and Luige del Puerto

THE POLICEMAN who single-handedly shot dead three armed bus robbers in Mandaluyong City last Saturday was honored by his colleagues yesterday.

There was no dearth of courage in SPO1 Charlito Corpuz when he shot it out with three armed men who tried to rob a passenger bus over the weekend.

For his daring feat, the plucky Corpuz was rewarded with a promotion to SPO2, medals of merit, and a cash gift from the Filipino-Chinese community.

Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. personally congratulated Corpuz yesterday morning at the Dr. Victor Potenciano Hospital in Mandaluyong, where he is confined for a gunshot wound in the right hand.

"He is proof that there are still good cops out there," Ebdane said.

Corpuz's act of heroism could not have come at a better time.

Only recently, four policemen—one from the Makati City police and three from the Pasay City force—were caught in the act of dumping the body of an alleged victim of summary execution in a Calamba, Laguna subdivision.

Last month, a Pasig City policeman was also caught on camera sniffing shabu inside a police precinct.

Corpuz, who was on his way to work at the time of the holdup, was outnumbered when he engaged the robbers in a brief shootout inside a packed JMK-JOJO passenger bus along Edsa.

"He was alone but it didn't matter that he was outnumbered," Ebdane said of Corpuz. "He showed strength under pressure. He didn't lose heart."

Sr. Supt. Ericson Velasquez, Mandaluyong police chief said Corpuz' act of gallantry was a morale booster for the force.

"I feel very proud of him. It only shows that policemen are still willing to lay down their lives when necessary," Velasquez said.

At the Mandaluyong Police headquarters, policemen were upbeat.

"It's good news, indeed," said Insp. Arturo Swing, the city's chief investigator. "This is a house of super cops," he could not refrain himself from saying.

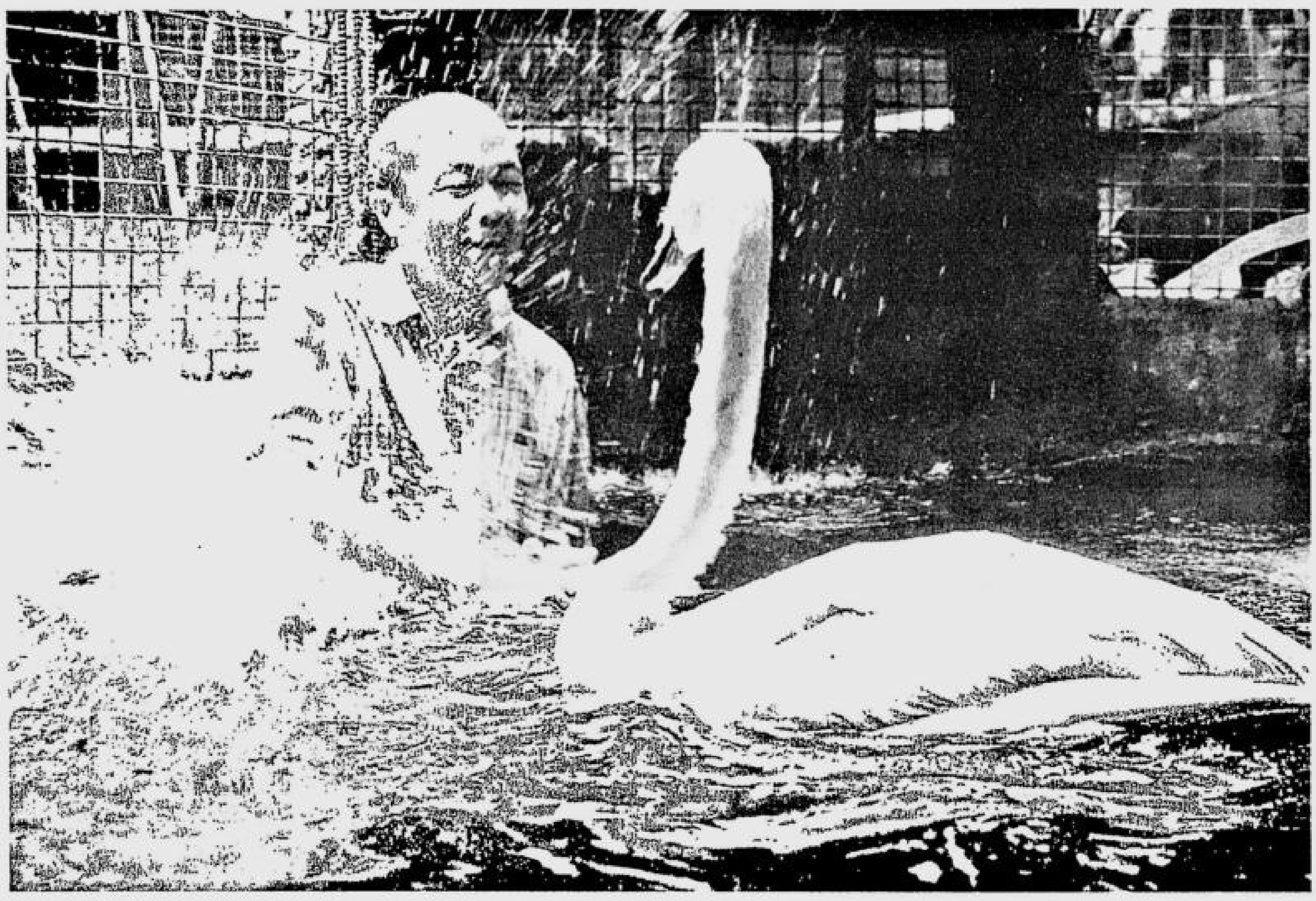
The investigator was referring to two previous incidents involving Mandaluyong policemen SPO1 Virgilio Reyes, who shot and killed three bus robbers on the South Super Highway, and PO1 Isagani Escorel, a rookie who had jumped off a bus to run after a suspect who tried to rob a woman along Edsa.

Reyes got an on-the-spot promotion.

Escorel, who was with his girlfriend when he spotted the attempted holdup, could have just avoided a confrontation with the robber, but chose to run after the suspect, Swing said.

"This makes me very proud of our men," the police officer added.

"A slug had been removed from Corpuz' hand, but a bone had been fractured," Velasquez said. "Otherwise, he's fine."



FEATHERED FRIEND
Malabon Zoo owner Manny Tangco plays with his 7-year-old swan named Sister. The swan is a favorite attraction at the zoo. JOAN BONDOC

2 bank robbers identified

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SECURITY guards of the Banco de Oro branch at the SM Southmall have identified two of the estimated 10 suspects behind Monday's robbery, police said.

Sifting through police photo files, the watchmen said the two suspects resembled two other men involved in past bank robberies in Quezon City and Parañaque, said city police chief Supt. Perpetuo Sanson.

However, Sanson withheld the names of the suspects "so as not to jeopardize ongoing operations."

The police chief said the suspects could either be part of the Waray-Waray or Ilonggo Groups, which have been implicated in the Prudential Bank heist in Parañaque City in February 2003 and the Banco De Oro bank robbery in Quezon City last April.

Same modus operandi

"The suspects who robbed Southmall's Banco de Oro on Monday and the groups behind the Parañaque and Quezon City robberies had the same modus operandi," Sanson said.

Five security guards were shot and wounded by the suspects who forcibly took two duffel bags containing an undetermined amount of cash.

In the Quezon City heist, gunmen held up a Banco de Oro armored van parked outside the annex building of the SM City in North Edsa.

On the other hand, robbers drove off with nearly a million pesos from the Prudential Bank in Sucat in February 2003.

Lack of alternate route delays Tullahan bridge repairs

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE ABSENCE of an acceptable alternate route for motorists has been delaying the rehabilitation of the Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela City.

Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said he wanted the project on MacArthur Highway to start soon, but not without a clear alternate route.

Pushing through with the construction without an alternate route would shut down many businesses in the city, he explained.

There is a parallel road in Potrero, Malabon City but it is also undergoing repair. Motorists would also have a difficult time if they would be rerouted to M.H. Del Pilar, where a road construction is also ongoing.

The third possible route going through Paso De Blas is also unacceptable because it is under repair.

Work on these roads is expected to be completed in a few more months, city planning and project evaluation head Eriberto Anselmo told the Inquirer.

MacArthur Highway is a busy road connecting several cities in the metropolis to towns in Bulacan. It is also a major route for trucks from Northern Luzon going to destinations in the cities of Valenzuela, Malabon and Caloocan.

The Department of Public Works and Highways recommended the construction of a new bridge as early as last year, saying the 64-year-old Tullahan Bridge was in bad shape.

The department had already lowered the bridge's capacity from 15 tons to 10 tons.

With the rainy season, the bridge could be under water again.

But right now, there is still no definite timetable for the plan to repair the endangered bridge.

Gatchalian said he would bring up the rehabilitation of the bridge during the planned Camanava Summit, a meeting of mayors from northern Metro Manila and officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MetroBriefs

Estranged wife sued

RETIRED SPO3 Baltazar Domagas, of Barangay Sta. Cruz, La Trinidad, Benguet, has filed charges against his estranged wife for allegedly forging his signature on a loan application. Charged was Lilia Ferreria Domagas with whom the former policeman had reportedly been separated for 17 years. The complainant said he was compelled to file a complaint after he discovered last week that the Diamond Lending Corp. in Cubao, Quezon City, had taken his pension check. He later learned that it was Lilia who filed for a loan by making it appear that he signed the application. *Tina Santos*

PSVSIA turns 50

THE PHILIPPINE Scout Veterans Security and Investigation Agency, Inc. celebrates its golden anniversary on Friday afternoon with a thanksgiving Mass and tribute to founder/chair Gen. Severo J. Santiago at the Kalayaan Hall of the Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila. Buffet dinner and ballroom dancing will follow after the program.

ICPHS reunion

IMMACULATE Conception Cathedral High School (formerly ICPHS) Alumni Association invites you to "Balik Imma... Ang Saya-Saya!" on Aug 14, 2004 at the the 10th floor new building across the school campus. For more details, please call Ms. Violy Ting at 727-2740 to 45 loc. 207 and 0919-3407228.

300 WPD cops take 'surprise' drug test

By Leila B. Salaverria

THREE hundred Manila policemen called to a meeting at the Western Police District headquarters yesterday morning were met with a surprise—a mandatory drug test ordered by the Philippine National Police.

The drug test was conducted as part of the PNP's drive to polish the image of policemen, especially those involved in anti-illegal drug operations, said WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod.

Making sure

"Police officials want to make sure that policemen, who are tasked to enforce the law, are themselves not doing anything illegal," Agunod said. "Of course the WPD has no objection to the drug tests."

The PNP headquarters would be paying for the drug tests costing around P300 each.

The tests were conducted at the Scene of the Crime Operatives office at the WPD.

The 300 policemen, just 10 percent of the 3,000-strong WPD, had been handpicked by their superiors.

Among them were members of the anti-illegal drugs task force at the WPD headquarters and those from 11 police stations.

No way out

The others came from the investigation and intelligence divisions, the Special Weapons and Tactics team, the civil disturbance management unit, the operations division, the mobile patrol unit, and the special operations group.

Agunod said the drug test was kept a surprise so that nobody would be able to get out of it.

He also said that if a Manila policeman tests positive for drug use, the policeman or the public would not be told about it.

Instead, the policeman who tested positive would be instructed to go to Camp Crame to undergo another drug test to confirm the previous results.

"We don't want to declare a policeman positive without any confirmation because that would be unfair to him," said Agunod.

But if a policeman tests positive for drugs twice, he would be given sanctions, including possible dismissal from the force, he added.

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WESTERN Police District antidrug unit chief Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo adds his urine sample to the rest of the samples from some 300 other policemen in Manila who were subjected to a surprise drug test yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

Overpass to rise in Caloocan

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TWO FOOTBRIDGES will soon rise on the stretch of Edsa going to the Bonifacio Monument Circle in Caloocan City as the makeover of the controversial landmark continues.

Apart from the two Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) footbridges, Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri is also planning to construct a "circumferential pedestrian overpass" around Monumento.

Work started

Work on the first footbridge near the Manila Central University Hospital began recently. MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno told the Inquirer the project would take two to three months to complete.

The actual construction was stalled for several weeks until the MMDA and city officials agreed on the location of the first footbridge.

Nacianceno said the project would cost about P9 million.

Flood, traffic problems on 4 mayors' agenda

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

TOGETHER is better. Or so mayors in northern Metro Manila hope.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the mayors of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (Camanava) are preparing for a summit to coordinate plans to solve flood, traffic and garbage problems in their areas.

Common ground

"Because we have interrelated problems, we should also have common programs," Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He also said it was his idea to hold a Camanava summit with the MMDA.

The summit is, however, still on the drawing board, although Echiverri said they would try to hold it starting next week.

The often congested Bonifacio Monument Circle is in Caloocan City. But the rotunda also connects Bulacan, Valenzuela City, Malabon City and Navotas to Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue and J.P. Rizal Avenue going to Manila

Some creeks and other drainage systems also run across some or all of the three cities and one town, making flooding caused by high tides a common problem.

Coordinated effort

Thus, Echiverri said projects like cleaning up rivers or improving the traffic situation should be a coordinated effort to ensure that these turn out well.

And while Navotas Mayor Tobias Reynald Tiangco said they did not have any problem with garbage disposal, he was optimistic the summit would help in the town's efforts to alleviate flooding.

Unlike its three neighbor cities, Navotas has its own controlled garbage facility.

Tiangco added that the MMDA could also help in the funding of localized flood control projects as residents in northern Metro Manila await the Camanava Flood Control Project, which will be completed only after four years.

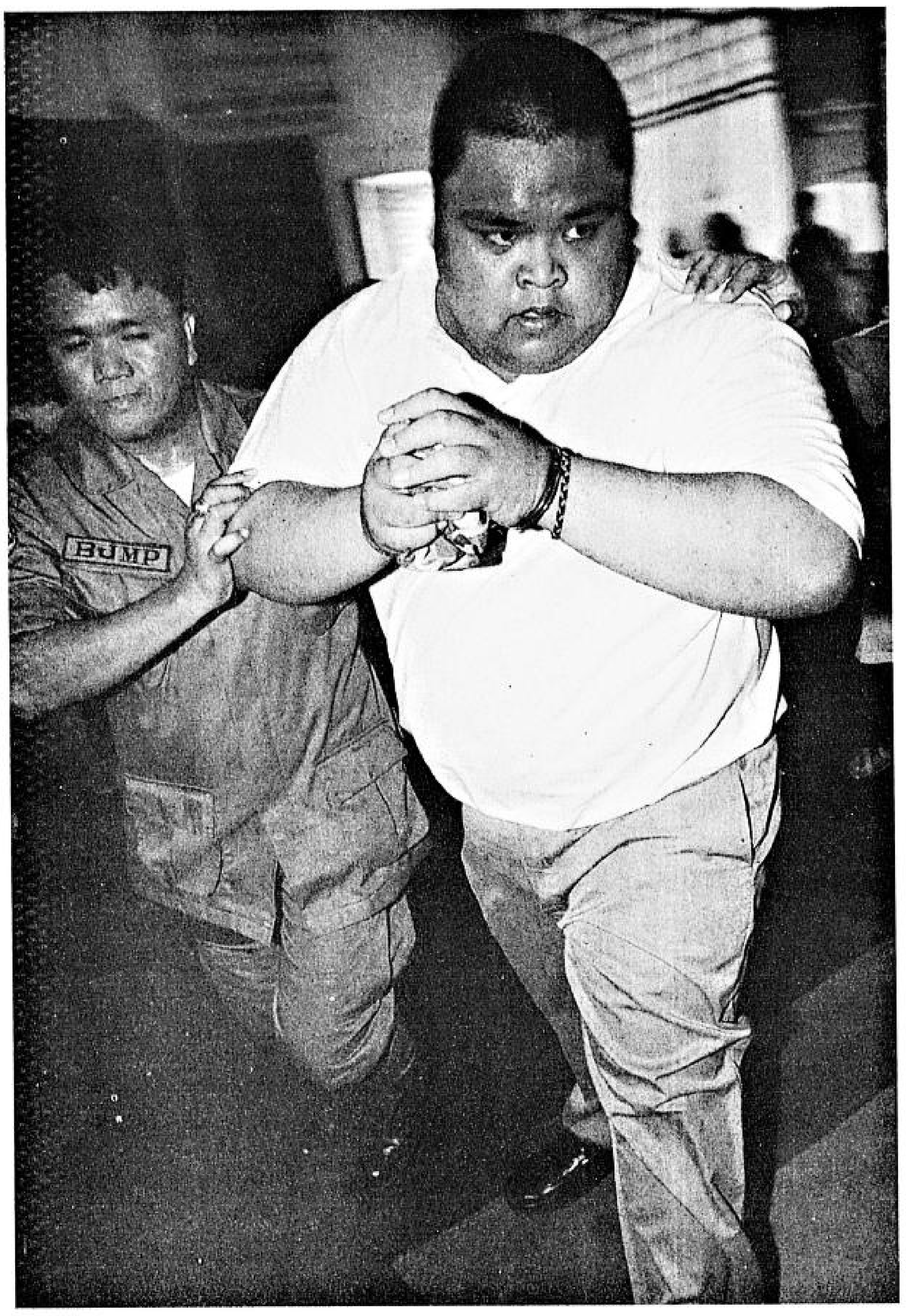
For his part, Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said he was planning to discuss with the other north Metro Manila mayors the repair or replacement of the Tullahan River bridge on MacArthur Highway.

No acceptable route

Work on the bridge had been slated for last year but this has been delayed because of the lack or absence of an acceptable alternate route for affected vehicles.

The Tullahan bridge connects the Camanava area to Bulacan and is a vital link for industries in the northern metropolis localities.

Many cargo from Central and Northern Luzon pass over the Tullahan bridge.



SUSPECT Philippe Marcelo is escorted out of the Manila Regional Trial Court after his arraignment for the rape and murder of bank teller Candice Castro was rescheduled. ERIK ARAZAS

Castro rape-slay case hits new snag

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE PROSECUTION of the two accused in the rape-slay of bank teller Candice Castro could not proceed as of yet.

One of the accused is still at large. And while the other may already be in custody, he has not been able to enter a plea.

The prosecution has to wait some more to present their case against Philippe Marcelo, who was arrested the same day Castro was found naked and stabbed to death inside her condominium in Malate, Manila, on May 12.

He was scheduled to be arraigned yesterday to enter his plea of either guilty or not guilty to charges lodged against him.

Only after the arraignment could a trial push through.

The court, meanwhile, has issued a hold departure order against Bebs Reyes to prevent him from leaving the country. Marcelo had tagged Reyes in the rape-slay, and the court has issued a warrant for his arrest a week ago.

Marcelo's lawyer, Augusto Jimenez, asked the court for more time for him to review the resolution of the City Prosecutors Office of Manila indicting his client for Castro's death.

At the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 53, where Marcelo and Reyes face trial for rape with homicide charges, Jimenez asked the court to give his client an extension before he enters his plea.

"We only received the resolution this morning. We need time to review it," said Jimenez, addressing Judge Reynaldo Alhambra before a jam-packed courtroom.

The prosecution, including public lawyer Exequiel Sison Jr. and Lorna Kapunan, who represents Castro's family, initially disagreed with the request, saying Marcelo and his lawyer took part in the preliminary investigation.

But "to satisfy" the defense's appeal, Alhambra granted the request and scheduled the arraignment a week later, on Aug. 10.

Malabon mall hit by hourlong fire

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TWO EMPLOYEES, a policeman and a fireman were slightly injured, while more than P2.5 million worth of property was lost after a fire razed a big department store in Malabon City yesterday afternoon.

The fire started about 2 p.m. inside the air-duct room of Star J Mall in Barangay Tañong. The room served as the control office for the exhaust of the restaurants at the ground floor, according to investigator SFO1 Noe Bragais.

Thick smoke sent shoppers and employees inside the five-story building running in panic.

A Pizza Hut employee told the INQUIRER that he did not hear any explosion or a fire alarm.

Inspector Angeles Ereño of the Malabon City police suffered cuts in the head after shards of glass fell on him. FO2 Manuel Gabriel sustained wounds in his hand, Bragais added.

Two employees were also reported hurt and were brought to the Tondo General Hospital.

Bragais said at least six stalls on the building's left wing were damaged.

The fire was put under control an hour later, while investigators tried to determined its cause.

Security was tight after the fire and guards even rudely prevented reporters from getting close to the building.

Mall guards refused to provide information about the fire.

Nearby residents said the mall was owned by former starlet Laarni Enriquez.

But Bragais identified the building manager as one Alen Enriquez.

PNP dared to arrest 'Baron' slay suspect

By Christian V. Esguerra

RETIRED Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto yesterday dared his former boss, outgoing Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., to arrest Supt. Rafael Cardeno, prime suspect in the killing of Baron Cervantes three years ago to prove that the alleged mastermind of the murder was not "untouchable."

"If they are so good, how come they have not been able to arrest him?" Maganto said, referring to Ebdane and other top generals of the PNP.

Maganto challenged Ebdane to make Cardeno's arrest his personal crusade before the PNP chief retires at the end of the year.

"He owes it to the family of the victim; justice must be served," he told the INQUIRER.

The other day, Cardeno's alleged henchmen were convicted for the murder in 2001 of Cervantes, self-styled spokesman of the Young Officers Union.

Former Marine Sergeant Joseph Mostrales, the confessed gunman, was sentenced to life imprisonment, while cohorts Erlindo Torres and Jaime Centeno each got eight to 14 years in jail.

Maganto said it was incomprehensible why Ebdane and the 114,000-strong PNP were unable to catch the suspect despite their vast resources.

Cardeno remains at large because he is part of the so-called clique of Philippine Military Academy graduates at the national police, Maganto claimed.

This should also explain why he failed to arrest Cardeno while he headed Task Force Cervantes, a special police unit President Macapagal-Arroyo had formed in response to a request by the victim's family.

Maganto said arresting Cardeno then was difficult, allegedly because of the lack of support from Malacañang and the PNP. Ebdane abolished the task force earlier this year, a few months after he retired in December, Maganto added.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, PNP spokesperson, however, said he had no knowledge of the task force's abolition.

He also doubted if Ebdane could abolish the body since it was created by the Office of the President.

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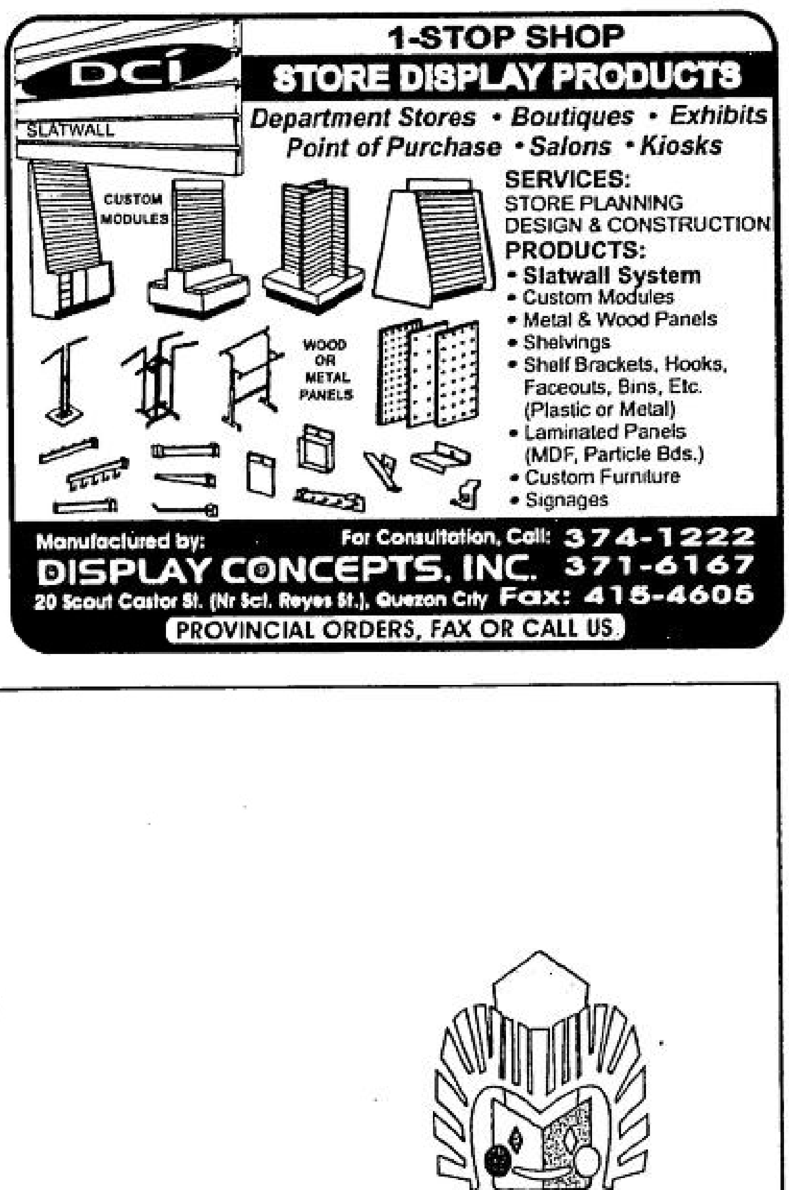
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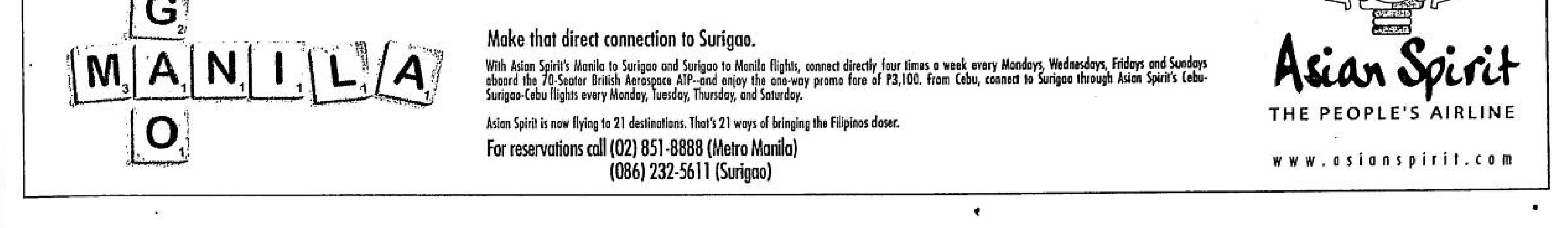
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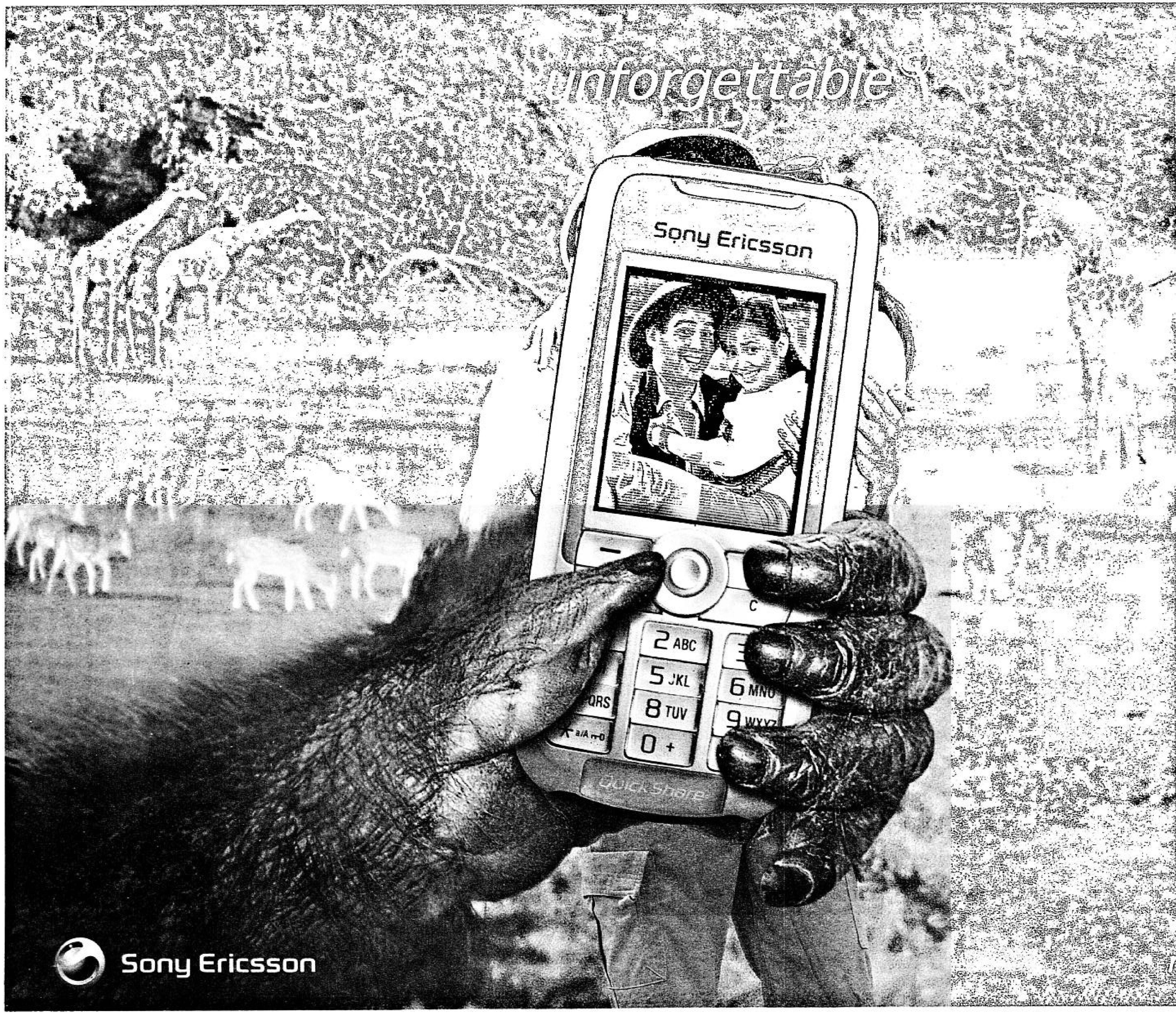

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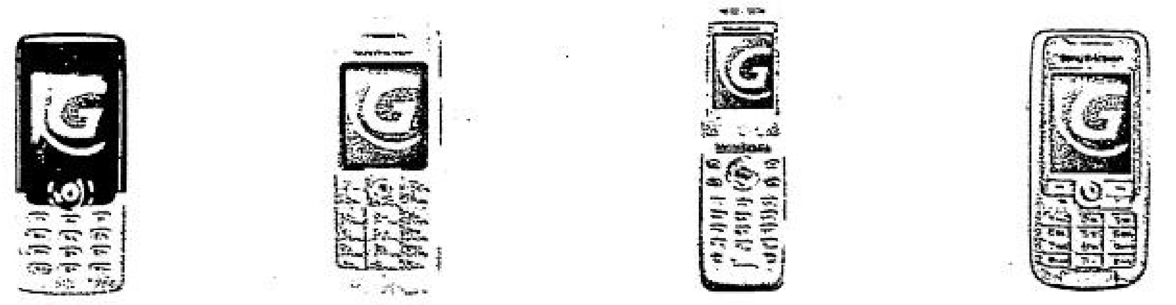

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BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League-Jazz vs Bobcats; 7:30 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports —Utah collides with newcomer Charlotte in the offseason

NBA Greatest Game-Lakers vs Suns, April 6, 2003; 10:30 a.m. (r-12:30 a.m.); Solar Sports—Relive this classic encounter between LA and Phoenix

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Manguiat

SPORTS

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Hot Altas seek 7th win in row vs Dolphins

THE UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help Altas hardly merited a second look during the pre-season even though they have an intact lineup.

The Las Piñas-based squad, last year's cellar-dweller, however, has stirred much interest after zooming to the top spot at the end of the first round in the NCAA senior basketball tournament.

"We didn't really expect to be where we are now," said Perpetual coach Bai Cristobal. "We just tried to win every game. We worked hard and I think we were much luckier than the other teams. Because they say if you work hard, *malapit din sa suwerte* (luck will be with you as well).

"Maybe we surprised the other teams, or maybe not. But I'd rather focus on my team right now. We've been practicing harder, we're really doing everything."

The Altas are on a six-game roll, its only defeat coming in the opener against Jose Rizal. They hope to extend this streak at 2 p.m. today as they kick off the second round against the Philippine Christian U Dolphins (3-4) at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Mapua Cardinals, who took solo second at 5-2, clash with the San Beda Red Lions (4-3) in the other senior match at 4 p.m.

STANDINGS	W	L
Perpetual	6	1
Mapua	5	2
Letran	4	3
SSC	4	3
PCU	3	4
San Beda	3	4
JRU	3	4
St. Benilde	0	7

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—PCU vs Perpetual (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—PCU vs Perpetual (Srs)
*4 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Srs)
6 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Jrs)
**Live on Studio 23*

Perpetual, which has never won the title since 1984 when it joined the league, has been leaning on league-leading scorer Noy Javier (21.4 ppg) and sophomores Vladymir Joe and Khiel Misa. Rookie Conrad Bauzon, nephew of former Olympian Orly Bauzon, has also been a big factor.

"It's really the attitude of the players that has changed," said Cristobal. "They don't want to lose and they don't want to stop learning."

PCU, tied at fourth with San Beda, will be led by veteran Robert Sanz and sophomores Jason Castro, Ian Garrido and Ramon Retaga Jr.

San Beda, which bowed to Mapua at the end of its first-round campaign, hopes to get even with the help of Jeff Bombeo, Arjun Cordero, Jerome Paterno and Ronnie Bughao.

Jasmine W. Payo

JOE protects the ball against JRU's MacDonald Santos PDI PHOTO

FG bankrolls training of 345 athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo yesterday picked 345 national athletes whose training will be funded by his FG Foundation in support of the country's quest for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games overall title.

ARROYO

In yesterday's project launch at the Bahay Pangarap in Malacañang Park, Arroyo said he will spearhead another pledging session for the athletes, similar to his initiative for last year's SEA Games in Vietnam.

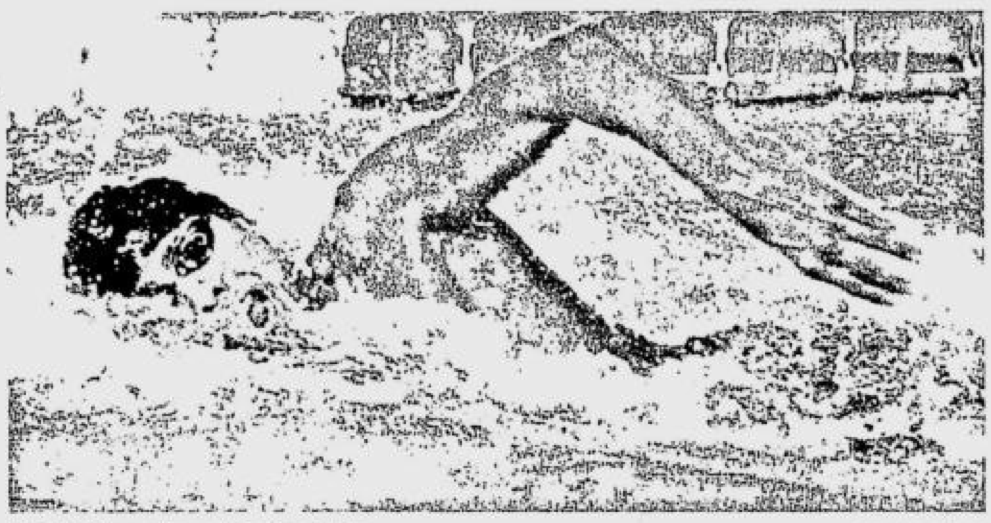
This time, though, Arroyo said he will ask private companies to support a national sports association of their choice for the Games, which will run from Nov. 30 to Dec. 9 next year.

Last year, the First Gentleman raised P22 million from corporate sponsors and spent the funds for the local and international training of 85 hand-picked athletes to the SEA Games.

Of these athletes, 33 won gold medals—the bulk of the 49 gold medals the country won in Vietnam.

"We are now talking of the country versus our Southeast Asian neighbors," Arroyo said in front of sports officials, including Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit.

"With the SEA Games to be held here, we have to finish in first place. We don't want to finish fourth," added Arroyo, referring to the Philippines' fourth-place performance in Vietnam.



MOLINA performs the freestyle. EDWIN BACASMAS

COUNTDOWN TO ATHENS

Pinoy swimmers take plunge for new marks

By Lorenzo Z. Manguiat, *Contributor*

WHILE nothing is impossible, the members of the Philippine Olympic Swimming Team do not have any grand delusions of winning a medal in Athens.

"The realistic goal for each swimmer is to break the national record and perhaps get close to the gold-medal time for the SEA Games," said Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) national training director Anthony Lozada.

"We are not ready to win an Olympic medal. We hope they (swimmers) improve their times and make it to the Top 20 in the world."

Five Filipinos met the qualifying times for the Olympics—Miguel Molina, Miguel Mendoza, JB Walsh, Timmy Chua and Jackie Pangilinan.

The country has vied in the Olympic swimming competitions since 1928, but hasn't won a medal since the Los Angeles Olympics in 1932, when Teofilo Yldefonso bagged the bronze in the 200-meter breaststroke.

And with the likes of world-record holders Ian Thorpe, Michael Phelps and Amanda Beard in the competitions, the dream for gold remains far-fetched for the Filipino tankers.

Apart from Mendoza, who competed in Sydney in 2000, the four other Filipinos are Olympic greenhorns.

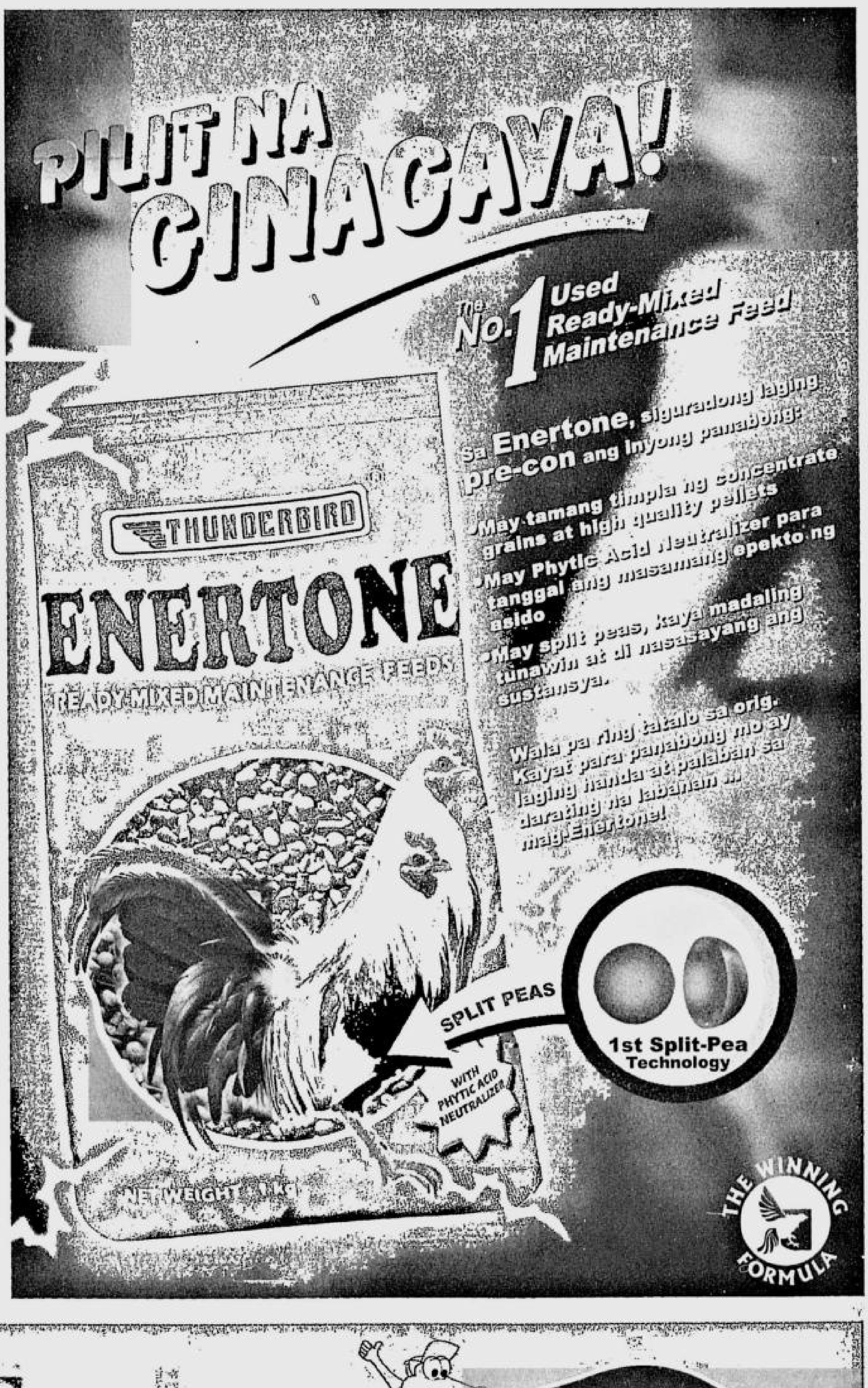
Mendoza, who won two gold medals in last year's Vietnam SEA Games, will compete in the men's 1,500m freestyle. Molina, who also won two golds in Vietnam, is entered in the

PINOY/ A24

COMPARATIVE SWIMMING RECORDS

[illegible]	World Record Holder/Country (Time)	SEA Games Record Holder/Country (Time)	Philippine Entry (Philippine Best)
Women's 100-m breaststroke	Jones Leisel AUS (1:06:37)	Jocelyn Yeo, SIN (1:11.36)	Jackie Pangilinan (1:12.04)
Women's 200-m breaststroke	Hui Qi, CHN and Amanda Beard, USA (2:22.99)	Siow Yiting, MAS (2:31.90)	Jackie Pangilinan (2:34.25)
Men's 100-m breaststroke	Kosuke Kitajima, JPN (0:59.78)	Elvin Chia, MAS (1:02.96)	Timmy Chua (1:04.93)
Men's 200-m butterfly	Michael Phelps, USA (1:53.93)	Anthony Ang, MAS (2:01.84)	JB Walsh (2:04.13)
Men's 1500-m freestyle	Grant Hackett, AUS (14:34.56)	Torlarp Sethsothon, THA (15:43.27)	Miguel Mendoza (15:49.55)
Men's 200-m individual medley	Michael Phelps, USA (1:55.94)	Ratapong Sirisanont, THA (2:04.26)	Miguel Molina
Men's 400-m individual medley	Michael Phelps, USA (4:09.09)	Ratapong Sirisanont, THA (4:25.16)	Miguel Molina (4:23.26)
Men's 200-m freestyle	Ian Thorpe, AUS (1:44.06)	Dulyarir Phuang Thong, SIN (1:52.47)	Miguel Molina (1:52.89)
Men's 200-m breaststroke	Kosuke Kitajima, JPN (2:09.42)	Elvin Chia, MAS (2:15.62)	Miguel Molina

ATHENS 2004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Japanese boys bomb RP nine

HOST Philippines ran into early misfortune and got smothered by powerhouse Japan, 19-0, yesterday at the start of the 30th Asia-Pacific Zone Pony Baseball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Field.

Tournament favorite Chinese-Taipei opened its campaign also with flourish by bombing South Korea, 13-2, in this four-team event serving as the regional qualifier for the Pony World Series in Pennsylvania.

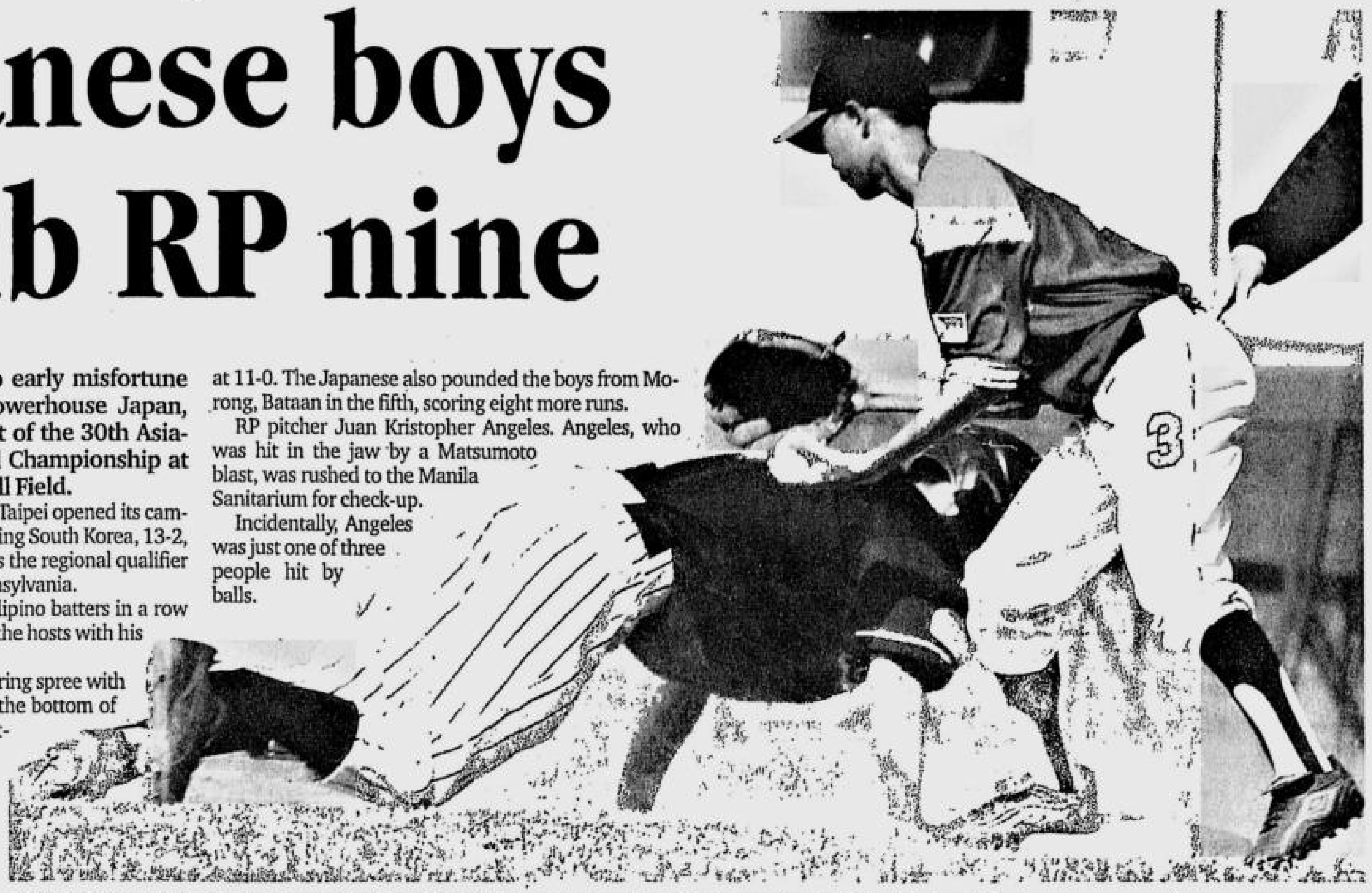
Shogo Iha fanned out nine Filipino batters in a row before Tsubasa Koja finished off the hosts with his superb form at the mound.

Koja opened the Japanese scoring spree with a two-run homer to left field at the bottom of the first inning before Nanki Matsumoto came through with two RBIs (runs-batted-in) as the clouters from Okinawa raced to a 4-0 start.

Four runs in the second frame and three more in the fourth buried RP even deeper at 11-0. The Japanese also pounded the boys from Morong, Bataan in the fifth, scoring eight more runs.

RP pitcher Juan Kristopher Angeles. Angeles, who was hit in the jaw by a Matsumoto blast, was rushed to the Manila Sanitarium for check-up.

Incidentally, Angeles was just one of three people hit by balls.



JAPAN'S Shogo Shimabukuro beats the tag of RP first baseman Jonathan Devis in yesterday's lopsided match.

GMA: Salvage Olympic coverage

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES is making a last-ditch effort to save the country's Olympic TV coverage.

Sources said no less than President Macapagal Arroyo has directed all efforts to bring the action in the Athens Games "live" on Filipino TV sets even if the country pays the $1.2 million debt that NBN-4, the government station, owes the International Olympic Committee.

The President met with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, NBN-4 officials Mia Concio and Tim Orbos and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday at Malacañang to draft a letter of appeal to the IOC

The same sources said "chances are good" that the country will get full coverage of the Games, which will run from Aug. 13 to 29, because the IOC "has been very accommodating."

The important thing, according to sources privy to the meeting, is that the government recognizes the debts incurred by NBN-4. To cover the Athens Games, the IOC requires $1.8 million more.

"The government is optimistic that we can settle amicably with the IOC," said Orbos, who is helping up with the negotiations. He said the country is likely to meet the Aug. 8 deadline.

Puentevella said there will be a conference call with IOC officials anytime this week.

SPORTSWATCH

Qatar pins 7th loss on RP-Cebuana Lhuillier

TAIPEI—The Philippines ended its disastrous stint in the 26th Jones Cup basketball tournament here Sunday by bowing to Qatar, 80-70—its seventh loss in eight games. Qatar had a strong start with four straight triples against a lone undergoal stab by Richie Melencio to take an early 12-2 lead, then stretched it to 13 points, 22-9, at the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter, the Accel-outfitted RP-Cebuana Lhuillier trimmed down the deficit to 8 points, 24-32, but Qatar came up with a closing 12-5 scoring run to post a 44-29 lead at the halftime. The Filipinos came no closer than 67-72 on an 11-2 burst in the third quarter, time down to 3:55. Successive misses by the Filipinos—a layup by Marc Pingris and a three point shot by Magsumbol—in the ensuing plays aborted the fiery rally. The Filipinos were led by Cruz, 17, Melencio, 11, and Magsumbol with 10 points. Chinese Taipei White won the championship with a perfect 8-0 win-loss record, dethroning Australia, which finished second with a 6-2 slate, same as Canada.

Hot start for Bibat in Putra Cup elims

MICHAEL Bibat carded a one-over par 72 at Riviera's Langer layout yesterday to boost his bid for the fourth and last slot in the national team competing in this year's Putra Cup golf tournament slated Aug. 24-27 at the Imperial Golf Club course in Indonesia. Juvic Pagunsan, who along with two others have been seeded to the RP squad for the annual event also known as the Southeast Asian Golf Team Championship, actually showed the way with a 71 on nines of 35-36 at the start of the four-day event at the par-71, hazard-laden layout in Silang, Cavite. The other seeded bets are Marvin Dumandan, and reigning national amateur champion and DHL Open titlist Jun Bernis. Dumandan settled for a 73, while Bernis struggled to a 78. Gene Bondoc made a 75 while Jay Bayron and Raymund Sangil, winners of the Samsung Amateur tour, both had 78s. Canlubang's Boyet Saragoza returned an 80, while Artemio Murakami fared even worse with an 84.

Balfour Beatty, SSC-Cavite catch PAF five

BALFOUR Beatty and SSC-Cavite hurdled their respective rivals Monday to share the top spot with idle Philippine Air Force in the 7th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the EAC gym. Coach Egay Macaraya's SSC-Cavite cagers nipped Navy-Red Bull, 105-104, while Louie Mangahis' Balfour Beatty squad subdued Homer Cagers, 83-81, for their second straight victories in the tournament held in honor of sportsman-businessman Danny Espiritu and organized by NBDL founder Ted Magno. PATTS made a rousing debut by routing RTU, 91-72, in the other game. The PATTS team of lawyer Raymund Cruz and coach Manny Mendoza jumped to a 39-28 halftime lead and never looked back. Competition continues today with Air Force (2-0) facing Air 21 at 4 p.m., Mayor Toti Paredes' SSC-Cavite taking on PATTS at 5:30 and TRU colliding with BF Law at 7. Navy-Red Bull and Homer Cagers dropped to 1-2 and tied for fourth place, ahead of RTU (0-1), BF Law (0-2) and Air 21 (0-2).

Santillan leaves today for OPBF defense

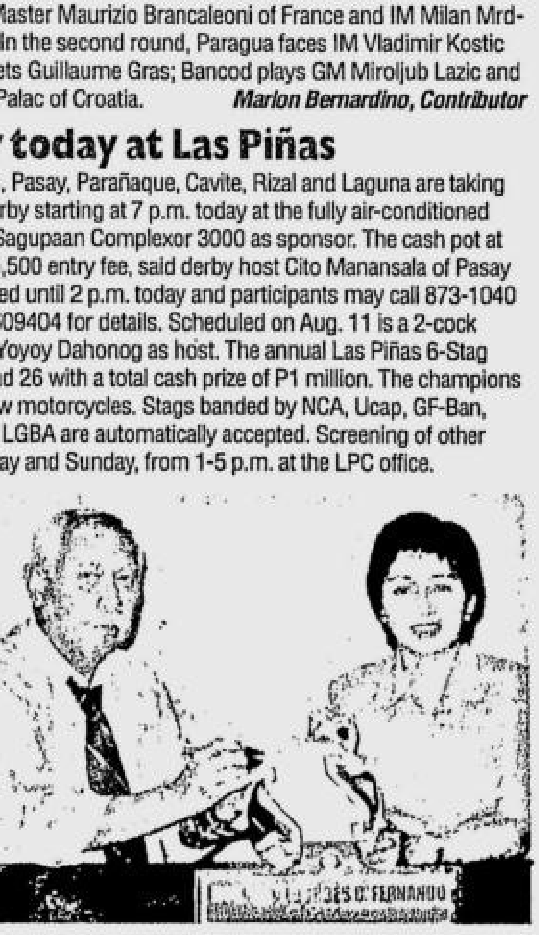
REIGNING Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation welterweight champ Rev "Gentle Giant" Santillan will depart today for his title defense against No. 10 Taisei Marumoto on Saturday at the Prefectural Gym in Osaka, Japan. The Iloilo-born, Cebu-based Santillan will be joined in his sixth Japan trip by manager Rex "Wakee" Salud, trainer Brix Flores and Filipino judge Arnel Pasion. Also seeing action in the fight's undercard are RP minifly champ Elmer Gejon, ex-WBC International bantamweight champ Rogelio Galicia and boxers Kid Orais and Romeo Buhawi. The 27-year-old Santillan goes into the fight with a 20-1-1 win-loss-draw record, with 15 KO's. The 28-year-old Marumoto parades a 14-4-1, 7 KO's ledger. The winner of the Santillan-Marumoto showdown will defend against OPBF No. 1 contender Dondon Sultan. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Paragua, 3 others hurdle Nice openers

GRANDMASTER-CANDIDATE Mark Paragua beat Woman Fide Master Marina Martsynovskaya of France to lead Filipino winners in the opening round of the XI Nice International Open Chess Championships Monday night at the Grand Aston Hotel in Nice, France. Also winning their assignments were newly installed IM Yves Rañola, IM Ronald Bancod and NM Rolando Nolte. Rañola bested Corrado Ficco of France, Bancod trounced Andrea Murgia of Italy while Nolte thwarted Arnaud Nekam-Tchassem of France. Three other Filipinos—IM Joseph Sanchez, NM Rolly Martinez and candidate master Roland Salvador—dropped their opening matches. Sanchez was upset by Julien Lamorelle of France while Martinez and Salvador bowed to FIDE Master Maurizio Brancaleoni of France and IM Milan Mrdja of Croatia, respectively. In the second round, Paragua faces IM Vladimir Kostic of Yugoslavia; Rañola meets Guillaume Gras; Bancod plays GM Miroljub Lazic and Nolte battles GM Mladen Palac of Croatia. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Special derby today at Las Piñas

COCKERS from Las Piñas, Pasay, Parañaque, Cavite, Rizal and Laguna are taking part in a special 3-cock derby starting at 7 p.m. today at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The cash pot at stake is P300,000 on a P5,500 entry fee, said derby host Cito Manansala of Pasay City. Entries will be accepted until 2 p.m. today and participants may call 873-1040 and 874-3910 or 0920-5609404 for details. Scheduled on Aug. 11 is a 2-cock event with popular gaffer Yoyoy Dahonog as host. The annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby is slated Aug. 24 and 26 with a total cash prize of P1 million. The champions will also get two brand new motorcycles. Stags banded by NCA, Ucap, GF-Ban, NGBA, Migba, B-Cup and LGBA are automatically accepted. Screening of other stags is held every Saturday and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. at the LPC office.



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL HOST: Football federation president Johnny Romualdez and Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando affix their signatures on an Adidas ball as a symbol of Marikina's hosting of the Under-19 and Women's Open on Aug. 15.

29ers thwart Iloilo cagers

LIPA CITY—Batangas survived a scare in the dying seconds to hold off a gritty Iloilo squad, 88-83, Monday night in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the Cultural and Convention Center here.

With the Ilonggos breathing down the 29ers' neck at 83-85 in the last 1:02, Rodel Mallari split his freethrows before Jhayson Cuevas stole off a driving Carlos Sayon for the winning basket at the buzzer.

Ariel de Castro waxed hot from the start to lead the 29ers' offensive with 26 points.

With the win, the 29ers of Malvar Mayor Tita Reyes, Rep. Oscar Gozos and businessman Bernie Maranan improved to 3-3 in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Supercat, Accel and Molten.

The Iloilo Basketball League-backed Warriors suffered their second consecutive setback in their Northern swing and fell to 5-3.

"Iloilo managed to come back because we got loose on defense, but luck was on our side in the last two minutes," said Batangas coach Yong Garcia, whose boys led, 68-58, going into the final quarter.

Action resumes today with the Warriors facing the Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring at 5:30 p.m. at the RECS Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The scores:

BATANGAS 88—De Castro 26, Jhay Cuevas 13, Mallari 13, Manucat 9, Sta. Cruz 4, Neo 4, Valena 4, Lapinid 4, Jun Cuevas 0, Rodriguez 0.

ILOILO 83—Sanz 21, Allado 14, Sayon 12, Marucot 11, Sinco 7, Sina-on 6, Sencil 5, Moreno 5, Poral 2.

Quarters: 21-22, 47-35, 68-58, 88-83

RP swimmers take the plunge ...

From page A23

men's 200 and 400 individual medleys, the 200 freestyle and the 200 breaststroke. Walsh will vie in the men's 200m butterfly; Chua in the men's 100 breaststroke and Pangilinan in the women's 100 and 200 breaststroke.

"I just want to swim my best. I'm definitely going to give it all I've got," said Mendoza, a Management Information Systems student at the University of Georgia, via e-mail. "I'm both excited and nervous.

"I'll have to swim my best time to either make the semifinals, finals or win a medal at the Olympics. My ultimate goal is to be the fastest I can be," said Molina, a student at Cal-Berkeley.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

MENDOZA: I'll give all I've got.

"I'm 10 seconds off the lead pack, so mining the gold, silver or bronze in Athens is not a realistic goal. I'm hoping to get into the semifinals, which would equate to achieving no lower than 1.11 and 2.31 in the 100 and 200 breaststroke, respectively," said the Harvard-bound Pangilinan.

"I'm hoping to break the Philippine record of 1.04.18 (set by PSC chair Eric Buhain)," said Chua, who earned a trip to Athens after clocking 1.04.93 in the 100 breaststroke in a meet in Hong Kong in July.

Unlike the members of the taekwondo, boxing and athletics teams, who are all training together, the swimmers are preparing for the Olympics on their own. Chua is training in the Philippines, while Molina, Mendoza, Pangilinan and Walsh are honing up in various states across the United States.

"Pasa adapted the decentralized training method since there are different factors preventing our swimmers to train in one place at the same time," said Lozada.

"Our swimmers are young. Imagine Walsh is only 17, Pangilinan is 18, while Molina is only 19. The Olympics will be a great learning experience for them. We're hoping that by the SEA Games next year, they'll dominate. Who knows what can happen in Beijing (2008 Olympics host city)."

Hunters snare big catch, stun PLM

GAMES THURSDAY
(*UM Gym*)
10:30 a.m.—AMA vs CEU
12 n.n.—PLP vs STI
1:30 p.m.—Holy Angel vs New Era
3 p.m.—UM vs St. Clare

NEW Era University stunned erstwhile co-leader Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 76-75, and snapped a two-game losing spell in the NAASCU basketball tournament at the UM gym.

University of Makati outlasted Holy Angel University, 105-101, in the other game.

The trio of Christopher Ramos, Ryan Lapid and Don Joseph Perlas combined for 50 points as the NEU Hunters came back from a 12-point deficit for the win, their first in three matches under coach Adonis Tierra.

Anthony Somera and Roel Asay paced the Eagles with 18 and 17 points, respectively.

University of Makati rode on the 30-point performance of Jefferson Tamaray to subdue Holy Angel and join PLM with identical 2-1 win-loss slates.

Pacquiao desecrates a masterpiece

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WE'VE all cheered and thrilled to Manny Pacquiao doing a demolition job with his killer fists.

But who would've thought the world boxing celebrity, who has impressed the likes of Muhammad Ali, could be equally sharp with his tongue, and even desecrate a masterpiece?

Pacquiao came out blazing when asked about the weekend world featherweight unification fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

He belittled the dominance scored by Erik Morales over the fire-breathing Carlos Hernandez.

In his critique of Morales, Pacquiao had decided to go against the whole boxing world.

Boxing experts were actually one in rating that hard-earned win by Morales a classic.

Pacquiao, however, offered a totally different view.

***

Instead of praising Morales, he threw a one-two combination at the fabled champ.

First, Pacquiao scored Morales, known worldwide as *El Terible*, for being rather slow with his punches.

Pacquiao followed up and claimed Morales was not too focused, and at times even refused to look at his target.

"Medyo mabagal si Morales, *minsan hindi tumitingin kung saan siya sumusuntok,"* Pacquiao told the Bulletin's Nick Giongco.

Giongco, a Pacquiao camp insider, added that the Filipino world boxing sensation wasted no time and declared his readiness to face Morales anywhere.

***

The observation, done with a keen fighter's eye, could indeed sound self-serving.

One good thing here is that the act of desecrating a prizefight masterpiece has definitely fed Pacquiao's confidence.

Without openly stating it, Pacquiao had claimed he would be faster, stronger than Morales.

That, in a way, could be true.

Pacquiao, a fabulous speedster, is younger and appears more energetic than *El Terible*.

Pacquiao would, however, be fooling himself if he starts entertaining the idea that Morales, if ever, would fight him the way he had battled and controlled Hernandez.

***

Take it from one who has seen a lot of the masterful Morales.

Morales cannot be expected to use the same bombs he had exploded on Hernandez against Pacquiao.

Why? Because Morales, pardon this phrase, is not a one-track, one-dimensional boxer like Pacquiao. If to a prized actor, he could adopt to all sorts of roles.

Pacquiao indeed loves to do things inside the ring his kamikaze, go-go, fastbreaking way.

But, if to a singer, he's limited to a single repertoire.

On the other hand, Morales, with his inborn depth, not to mention his deceptive composure and experience, could readily offset Pacquiao's explosiveness, slow him down, and even use his speed and bravado against him.

***

Another thing: Morales is not exactly slow, as Pacquiao had mistakenly viewed the masterful Mexican.

Morales is cunning and deliberate. He doesn't rush up things.

He thinks, adjusts, before executing—a superb, all-around gladiator.

Well, maybe this need not be brought up, but Pacquiao had had the same idea of Juan Manuel Marquez before their big clash in Las Vegas last May.

After he had succeeded in flooring Marquez in the first round, Pacquiao next woke up to a nightmare.

The supposedly slow foe was actually a calculating, near-perfect counter-puncher who delivered with blinding sharpness at the right time.

***

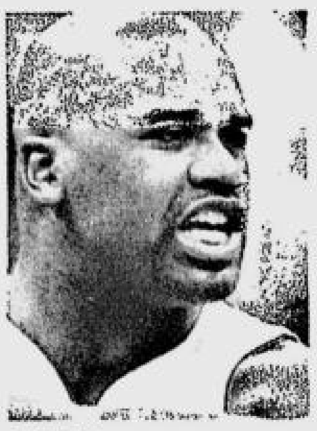
Anyway, that 11th round demolition by Pacquiao of Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera last year could also be ranked a prizefight masterpiece.

Pacquiao, together with world title hopeful Z Gorres, a protégé of sportsman Rudy Salud, leaves to train in the Wild Card Boxing Club of Freddie Roach next month.

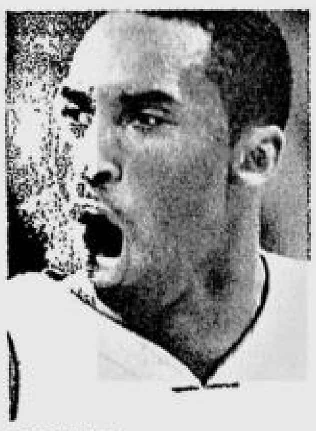
Once Pacquiao hits Hollywood and starts talking shop with his trainer, expect Roach to tell him the raw truth.

Morales promises to be twice as complicated as the unsinkable Juan Manuel Marquez.

Christmas face-off for O'Neal, Bryant



O'NEAL



BRYANT

NEW YORK—Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant will probably not exchange Christmas cards, but they will face off against each other for the first time on Christmas Day at the Staples Center.

The National Basketball Association released its 2004-05 schedule on Monday and made the season's most highly anticipated matchup—O'Neal and the Miami Heat against his former team, the Los Angeles Lakers—the second half of a Christmas Day doubleheader.

O'Neal demanded a trade from the Lakers after coach Phil Jackson was fired in June.

Both complained that Bryant hurt the team by shooting too much and not getting his teammates involved enough, but Lakers owner Jerry Buss sided with his All-Star guard.

After O'Neal was traded to the Heat for Lamar Odom, Caron Butler, Brian Grant and a first-round pick last month, the Lakers re-signed Bryant to a $136-million contract.

However, the holiday meeting could be spoiled if Bryant is convicted of felony sexual assault in an August trial.

O'Neal will make his debut with the Heat on Nov. 3 against the New Jersey Nets at the Continental Airlines Arena.

His home debut for Miami comes on Nov. 4 against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The defending champion Detroit Pistons started the dismantling of the Lakers, beating them in five games in the NBA Finals.

Detroit will play its season opener on Tuesday Nov. 2—the opening night of the season.

After receiving their championship rings, the Pistons will host the Houston Rockets, who acquired star guard Tracy McGrady from the Orlando Magic in the offseason.

Detroit will also play the Indiana Pacers in the first Christmas Day game.

NBA China Games 2004, which feature Yao Ming and the Rockets taking on Sacramento in Shanghai on Oct. 14 and in Beijing on Oct. 17, highlight the league's preseason schedule, which will be released on Aug. 4. *AFP*

Woods, Kuehne win in 'Bridges'

RANCHO SANTA FE, California—Hank Kuehne salvaged an embarrassing night off the tee with two birdie putts that got his team back in the match, and Tiger Woods took over from there.

Woods blistered a 5-iron within 25 feet (7.5 meters) for an eagle at the par-5 16th that capped a great comeback and gave him and Kuehne a 2-and-1 victory Monday night in the "Battle at the Bridges."

The made-for-TV exhibition was supposed to be about power, and John Daly did not disappoint by winning three of the four long-drive contests. But it ultimately came down to the most reliable club in anyone's bag—the putter.

Daly and Masters champion Phil Mickelson led 2-up for most of the match until Woods started the rally with a birdie on the 13th, and Kuehne finally got in the game with birdie putts of 8 and 12 feet (2.4 and 3.6 m) on the next two holes to give them a 1-up lead and send them to a victory. *AP*

90
NO FEAR
90
NO FEAR
FIREROCK
JAVA
SPORTS central

FAREWELL, SMARTY JONES

Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Smarty Jones retires from racing because of bone bruises in all four hoofs. The discovery came after the horse was diagnosed for a bruised front left hoof that forced trainer John Servis to scratch the 3-year-old from next month's Pennsylvania Derby. REUTERS

Busted knee sidelines star

A WEEK after Ateneo's Larry Fonacier ended his UAAP season due to a knee injury, Adamson's Ramil Tagupa suffered the same fate, tearing both his anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament last Saturday.

Tagupa, Adamson's 24-year-old starting point guard, will be out for the season.

Dr. George Canlas, who performed Fonacier's operation, will also attend to Tagupa.

Tagupa, who was reportedly distraught over the news, has been averaging 6.6 points and 7.2 rebounds, leading Adamson to a share of fourth place with University of the East and University of Santo Tomas at 3-3.

Meanwhile, UAAP commissioner Ato Badolato suspended referee Boy Quisido for five playdates "for making bad calls which influenced the NU-FEU game."

The Tamaraws beat the Bulldogs, 86-85, in overtime after a split by FEU's Don Yabut off a last-second foul slapped on NU's Edwin Asoro.
Jasmine W. Payo

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Real Material 2. Miguel's Pet 3. Mano Po 4. Ocean Magic
Race 2—1. Salamat 2. Centra 3. Gold Collar 4. Count Your Blessings
Race 3—1. Western Legend 2. Yokozuna/Burst of Speed 3. Easy Rider 4. Jay Nicole/Friendly Lover
Race 4—1. Magiliw 2. Detonator 3. Patutina 4. Kalashnikov/Chase the Wind 5. Be Ready
Race 5—1. Musikero 2. Schwarzenegger 3. Duces Tecum 4. Cool Clay 5. Aspire
Race 6—1. Dashing 2. Highly Connected 3. Cuadro de Alas 4. Silver Cho Cho
Race 7—1. Red Lips 2. Real Charm 3. Blue Bolero 4. Ladies' Night/Gleaming Heart 5. The Strategist
Race 8—1. Wind Star 2. Colonial Affair 3. Gold and Star 4. Wing Away 5. Red Thunder/Earth Angel 6. Caballero

Golf fund-raiser slated

THE LONG-RUNNING August Fore! invitational golf tournament tees off Friday at the Wack Wack west course hoping to raise funds for various charitable projects.

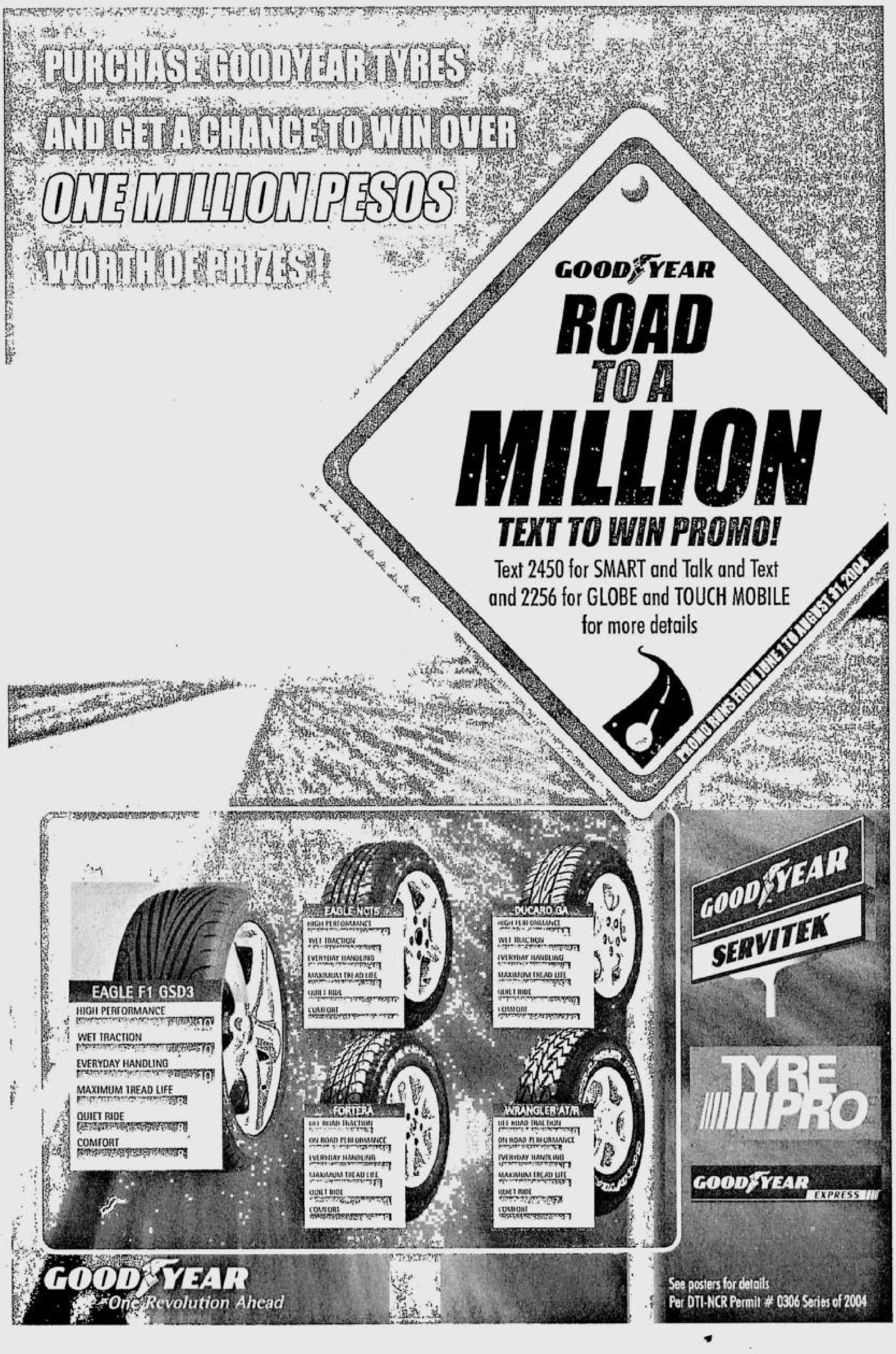
Tournament chair Bert Lina and Rotary PDG Melito "Bimbo" Salazar said beneficiaries will be the Tib-Ong Foundation, the Rotary Club of Diliman RI District 3780 and its Rotarympics and the Cannonette Nuns of Tagbilaran.

The Tan Yan Kee Foundation is the major sponsor. Hole sponsors are Air 21 , Portals, Performance Forex Corp., Friends of Melito Salazar and Nestlé Philippines.

ABN-AMRO Bank, Allied Bank, Maybank, Mount Makiling Rural Bank, International Container Terminal Services Inc., Yung Sung Industrial Phils. Inc, Fil-Anglo and Promotional Consultants, LG Atkinson Chemicals, Planters Development Bank, Manila Bank and San Miguel Corp. are half-hole sponsors.

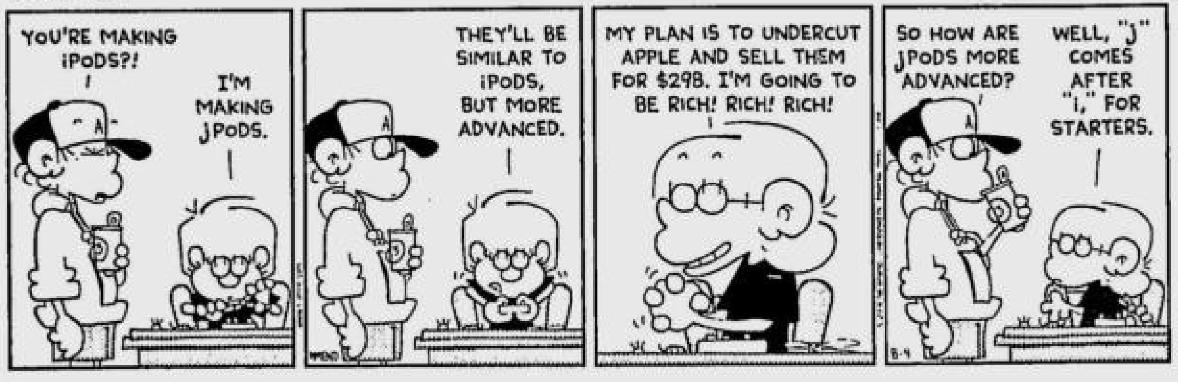
Mitsubishi Motors Phils. put up a new Lancer as hole-in-one prize on No. 11.

For inquiries, call the Global Sports Management and Marketing Corp. at 433-0782 and 435-1943.


PURCHASE GOODYEAR TYRES
AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN OVER
ONE MILLION PESOS
WORTH OF PRIZES!
GOODYEAR
ROAD TO A MILLION
TEXT TO WIN PROMO!
Text 2450 for SMART and Talk and Text and 2256 for GLOBE and TOUCH MOBILE for more details
PROMO RUNS FROM JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 31, 2004
EAGLE F1 GSD3
HIGH PERFORMANCE
WET TRACTION
EVERYDAY HANDLING
MAXIMUM TREAD LIFE
QUIET RIDE
COMFORT
EAGLE NCT5
DUCARO GA
FORTERA
WRANGLER AT/R
OFF ROAD TRACTION
ON ROAD PERFORMANCE
GOODYEAR SERVITEK
TYRE PRO
GOODYEAR EXPRESS
GOODYEAR One Revolution Ahead
See posters for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0306 Series of 2004

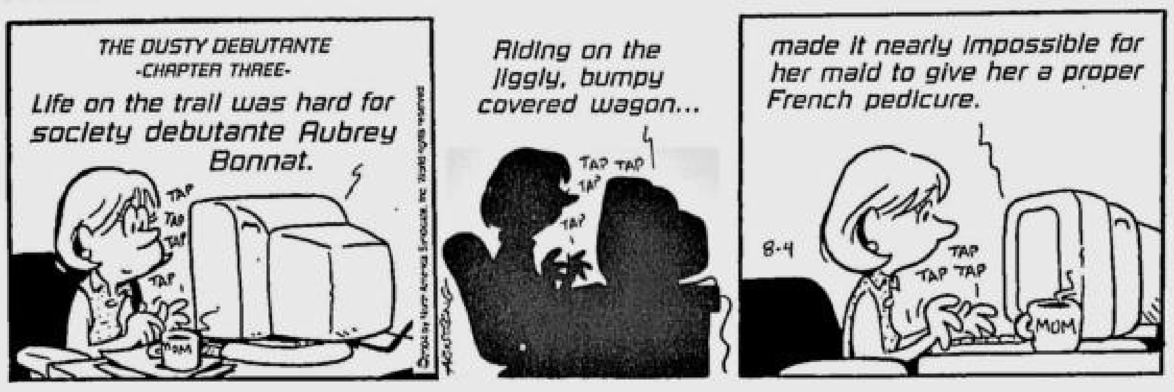
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE MAKING iPODS?!
I'M MAKING JPODS.
THEY'LL BE SIMILAR TO iPODS, BUT MORE ADVANCED.
MY PLAN IS TO UNDERCUT APPLE AND SELL THEM FOR $298. I'M GOING TO BE RICH! RICH! RICH!
SO HOW ARE JPODS MORE ADVANCED?
WELL, "J" COMES AFTER "i," FOR STARTERS.
8-4

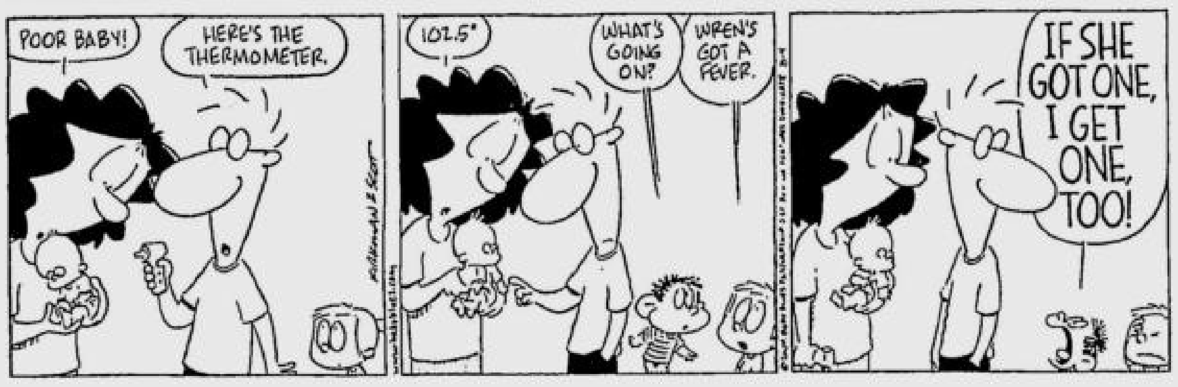
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THE DUSTY DEBUTANTE
-CHAPTER THREE-
Life on the trail was hard for society debutante Aubrey Bonnat.
TAP TAP TAP TAP
Riding on the jiggly, bumpy covered wagon...
TAP TAP TAP TAP
made it nearly impossible for her maid to give her a proper French pedicure.
TAP TAP TAP
MOM
8-4

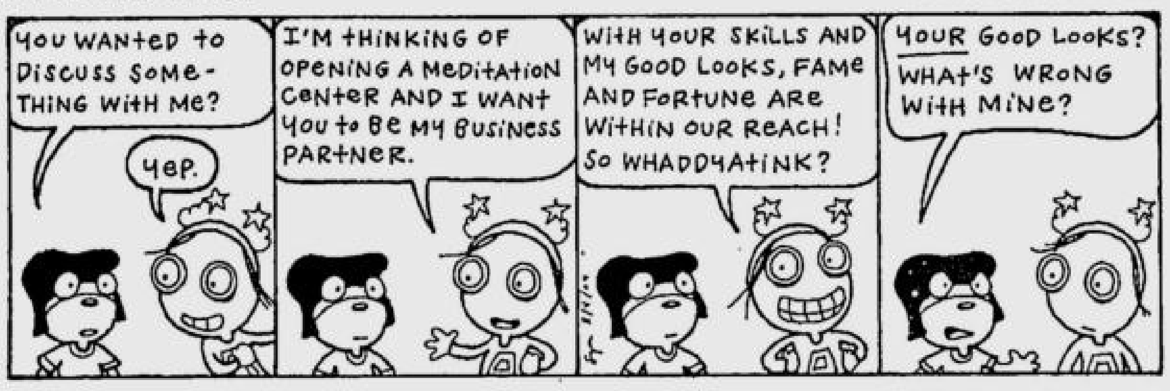
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


POOR BABY!
HERE'S THE THERMOMETER.
102.5°
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WREN'S GOT A FEVER.
IF SHE GOT ONE, I GET ONE, TOO!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU WANTED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH ME?
YEP.
I'M THINKING OF OPENING A MEDITATION CENTER AND I WANT YOU TO BE MY BUSINESS PARTNER.
WITH YOUR SKILLS AND MY GOOD LOOKS, FAME AND FORTUNE ARE WITHIN OUR REACH! SO WHADDYATINK?
YOUR GOOD LOOKS? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MINE?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're quick to learn anything. You have a clever, inquiring, creative mind. People are attracted to your ideas. Because of this, you have influence over others, whether you seek it or not. You often rebel against established ways of doing things. This year, certain things end in order for new ones to begin. **Birthdate of:** Elizabeth, Queen Mother of England; Billy Bob Thornton, actor; Louis Armstrong, jazz great.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you feel a bit more emotional; however, it gives you an advantage over everyone. Make the most of this.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Try to stay at home and relax. Or at least, try to get a little time to be by yourself, if you can today. You need some time out, no matter how brief.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with a female friend might suddenly change your mind today. In a blink, you're open to doing something that previously you were going to avoid.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Parents or someone in authority could challenge your ideas today. This is not the day to go looking for a fight. (People are itching for an opportunity to tell somebody off.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This can be a lovely day! Have the courage to explore something different. Visit new shops and different places. (Don't worry about avoiding temptation, as you get older, it starts avoiding you.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel rather sexy and flirtatious today. The truth of the matter is, you're feeling good about yourself. And why not? After all, you'll never again be as young as you are today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be patient with others today. Today's Moon opposes you as it passes through fiery Aries. Lots of people want to fight right now! Just keep on walking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a fierce determination at work today. You really want to get things done. Start by trying to get better organized so that you feel more in control.

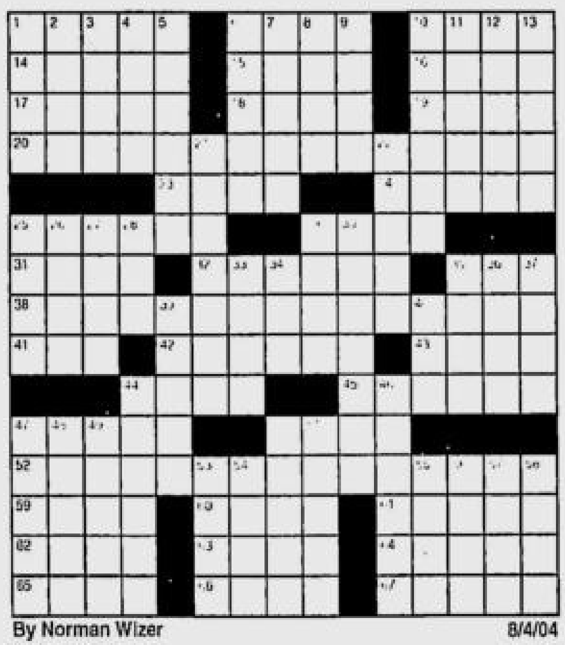
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a wonderful, playful day. It's the perfect time to catch a matinee, watch television, participate in sports or enjoy playful activities with children. Keep it light.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with a parent are significant today. Don't try to prove anything. Avoid one-upmanship. Just try to get along.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): In your discussions with others today, you want to make a point or win your argument. This is one day when rising to debate is actually rising to the bait.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Impulse spending tempts you today. It might turn out fine. But you might want to give things a sober second thought, if you can.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norman Wizer
Malvern, PA
8/4/04

ACROSS
1 Preceding in order
6 Served perfectly
10 Hogwash!
14 Veil material
15 Memo
16 Cube maker Rubik
17 Shillong's state,
18 Marichal of baseball
19 Moises of baseball
20 It's a mystery to me!
23 5th book of the Bible
24 Hose down
25 Melonlike fruit
29 Sioux tribe
31 Genesis twin
32 Unanimously
35 Dixie grp.
38 Terra-cotta vases
41 D-Day craft
42 Practical trainee
43 Brilliant fish
44 __ facto
45 Time of glacial dominance
47 Dandruff source
50 Spanish kiss
52 No matter what
59 Prego competitor
60 Stockings
61 Fragrance
62 Employs
63 "The Dukes of Hazzard" lawman
64 Artifact
65 "Pretty Woman" man
66 Isn't incorrect?
67 Dawdle

DOWN
1 Egyptian god of creation
2 Ploy
3 "Casablanca" role
4 Patron saint of Norway
5 Cure
6 Pear of choice
7 Dracula's title
8 & others
9 Gainsay
10 Small cap
11 Acrylic fiber
12 "The __ of Kilimanjaro"
13 Family dwelling
21 Makes tidy
22 Jockey Julie
25 Banana wrapper?
26 Gray and Candler
27 Parcel's partner
28 Self: pref.
29 Actor Epps
30 Taint
33 Aware of
34 Profound dread
35 Manilow's nightclub
36 Bachelor bash
37 U.S. Open stadium
39 River horse
40 "Ulalume" author
44 Treat badly
46 Scaredy-cat
47 Shoulder signal
48 Come to an end
49 Heroic Horatio
50 American buffalo
51 Discharge
53 Saturn satellite
54 __ soit qui mal y pense
55 Code name?
56 Turnpike payment
57 Zatopek or Jannings
58 Slightly blue

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	K	E	R	■	S	P	A	■	A	R	A	B	S
A	L	I	V	E	■	P	E	N	■	D	I	V	A	N
I	S	L	E	S	■	I	A	N	■	S	C	O	R	E
D	O	N	R	I	C	K	L	E	S	■	H	I	R	E
■	■	■	■	D	U	E	S	■	H	O	L	D	E	R
G	O	L	F	E	D	■	■	D	E	L	I	■	■	■
O	R	A	L	S	■	S	P	E	E	D	T	H	A	P
E	S	S	E	■	T	A	T	A	R	■	T	O	G	A
R	O	S	E	P	E	T	A	L	■	F	L	I	E	S
■	■	■	B	O	S	S	■	■	Y	I	E	L	D	S
A	S	S	A	I	L	■	O	T	O	E	■	■	■	■
P	O	P	I	■	A	R	T	H	U	R	A	S	H	E
A	N	I	L	E	■	A	T	E	■	C	R	O	A	K
R	A	T	E	S	■	G	E	M	■	E	L	I	T	E
T	R	E	Y	S	■	E	R	E	■	R	O	L	E	S

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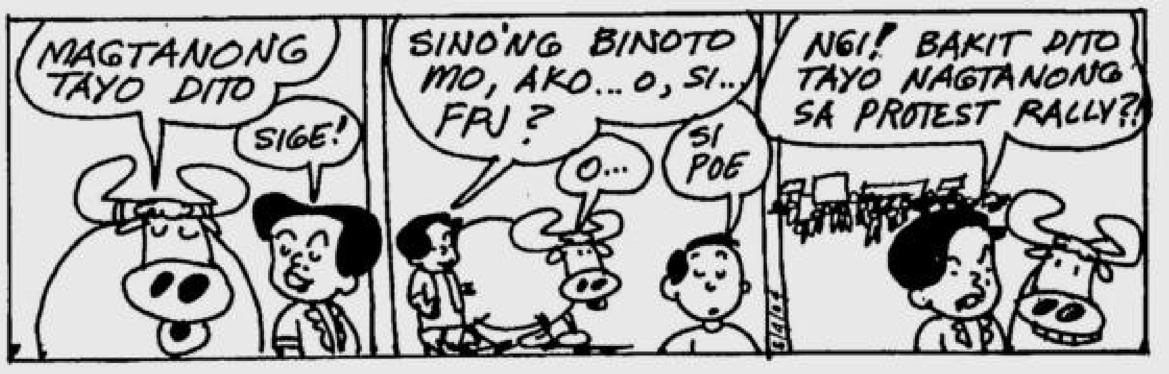
8/4/04

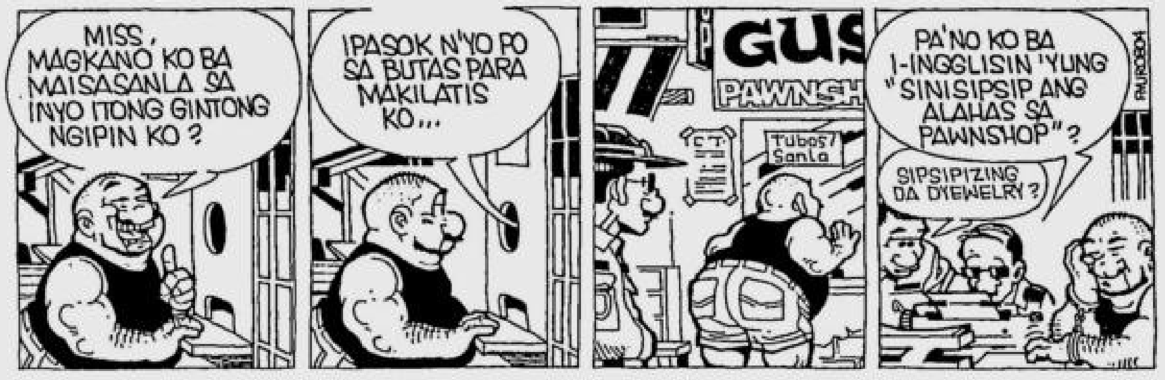
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAGTANONG TAYO DITO
SIGE!
SINO'NG BINOTO MO, AKO... O, SI.. FPJ?
O...
SI POE
NGI! BAKIT DITO TAYO NAGTANONG SA PROTEST RALLY?!

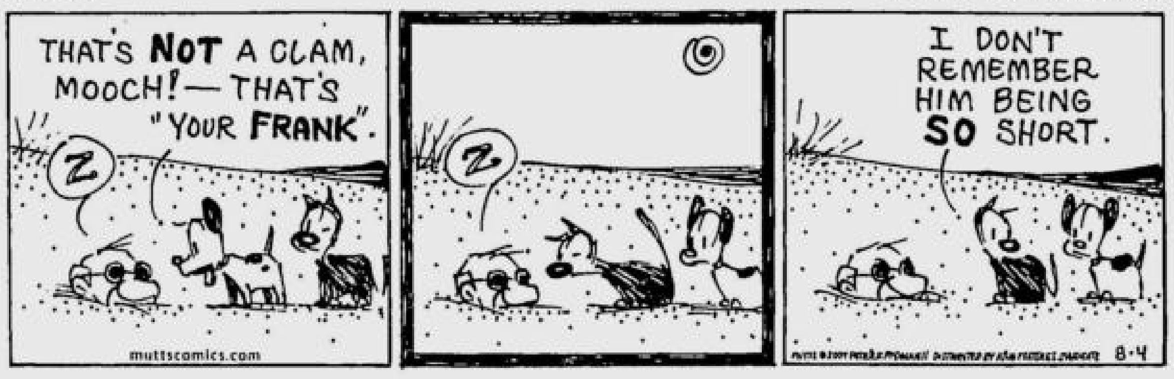
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MISS, MAGKANO KO BA MAISASANLA SA INYO ITONG GINTONG NGIPIN KO?
IPASOK N'YO PO SA BUTAS PARA MAKILATIS KO...
GUS
PAWNSH
Tubos/Sanla
PA'NO KO BA I-INGGLISIN 'YUNG "SINISIPSIP ANG ALAHAS SA PAWNSHOP"?
SIPSIPIZING DA DYEWELRY?

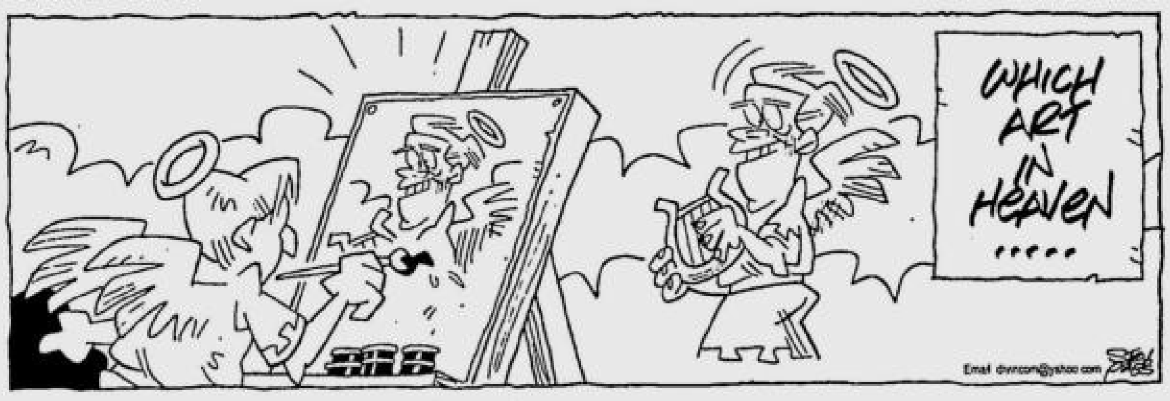
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THAT'S NOT A CLAM, MOOCH! — THAT'S "YOUR FRANK".
Z
Z
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM BEING SO SHORT.
muttscomics.com
8·4

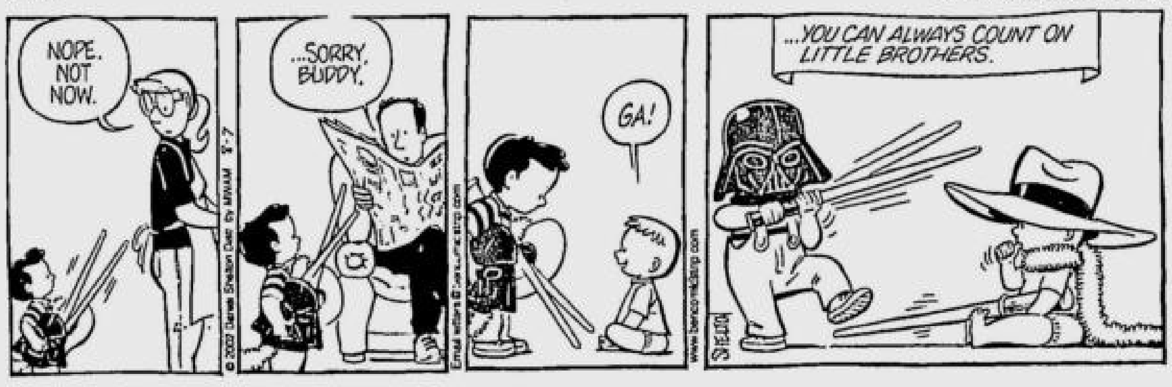
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHICH ART IN HEAVEN .....
Email divncom@yahoo.com

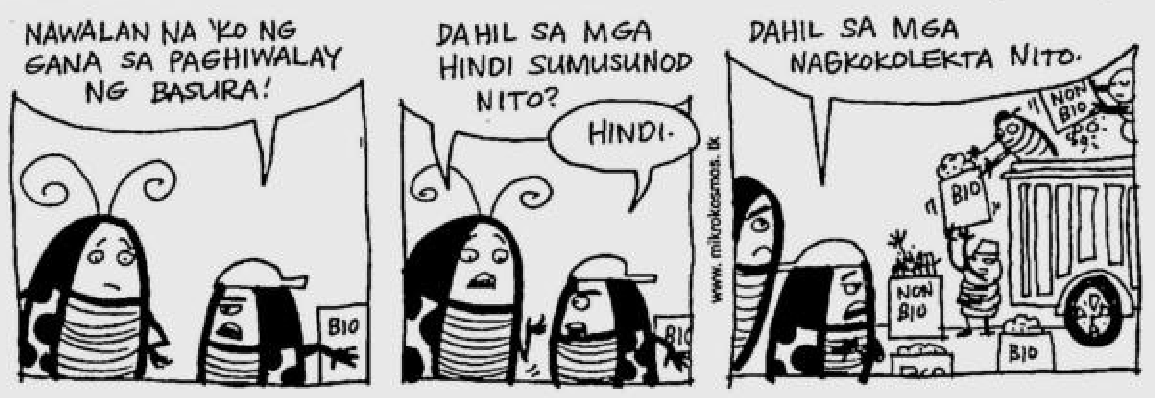
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NOPE. NOT NOW.
...SORRY, BUDDY.
GA!
...YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON LITTLE BROTHERS.
www.bencomicstrip.com

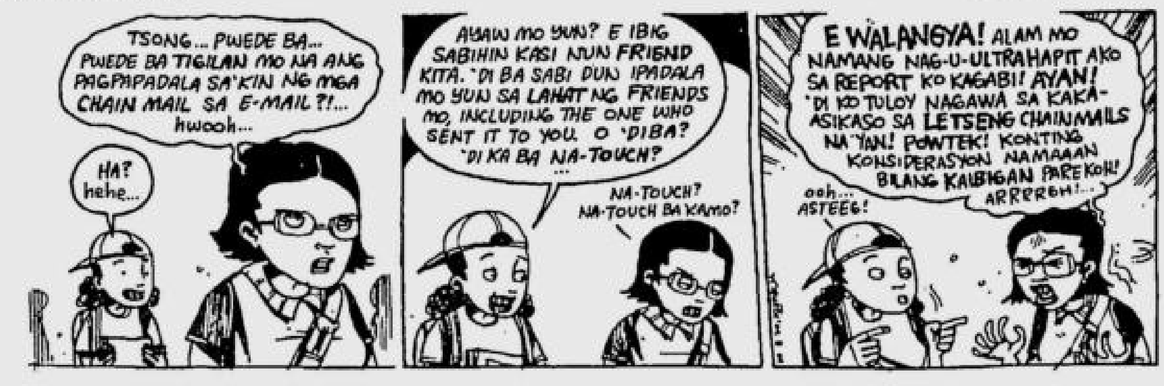
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAWALAN NA 'KO NG GANA SA PAGHIWALAY NG BASURA!
BIO
DAHIL SA MGA HINDI SUMUSUNOD NITO?
HINDI.
DAHIL SA MGA NAGKOKOLEKTA NITO.
NON BIO
BIO
www.mikrokosmos.tk

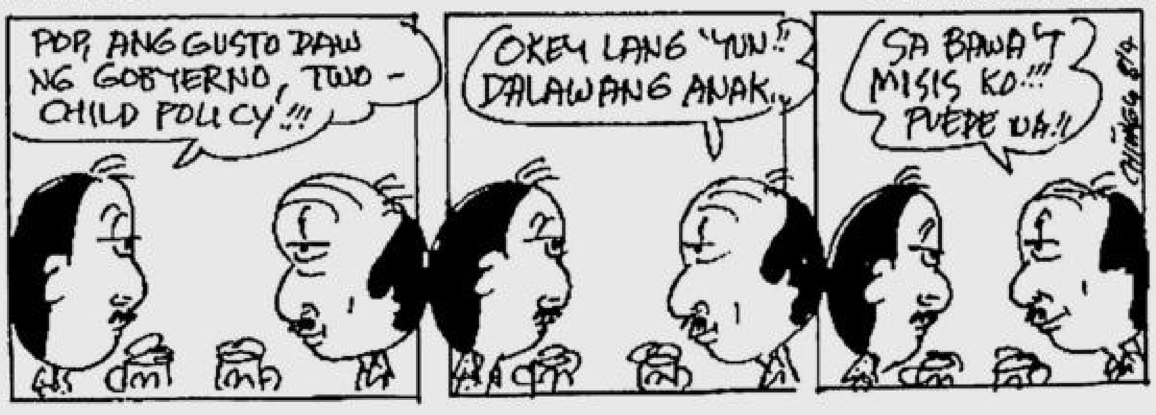
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG... PWEDE BA... PWEDE BA TIGILAN MO NA ANG PAGPAPADALA SA'KIN NG MGA CHAIN MAIL SA E-MAIL?!... hwooh...
HA? hehe...
AYAW MO YUN? E IBIG SABIHIN KASI NUN FRIEND KITA. 'DI BA SABI DUN IPADALA MO YUN SA LAHAT NG FRIENDS MO, INCLUDING THE ONE WHO SENT IT TO YOU. O 'DIBA? 'DI KA BA NA-TOUCH? ...
NA-TOUCH? NA-TOUCH BA KAMO?
E WALANGYA! ALAM MO NAMANG NAG-U-ULTRAHAPIT AKO SA REPORT KO KAGABI! AYAN! 'DI KO TULOY NAGAWA SA KAKA-ASIKASO SA LETSENG CHAINMAILS NA 'YAN! POWTEK! KONTING KONSIDERASYON NAMAAAN BILANG KAIBIGAN PAREKOH! ARRRRGH!...
ooh... ASTEEG!

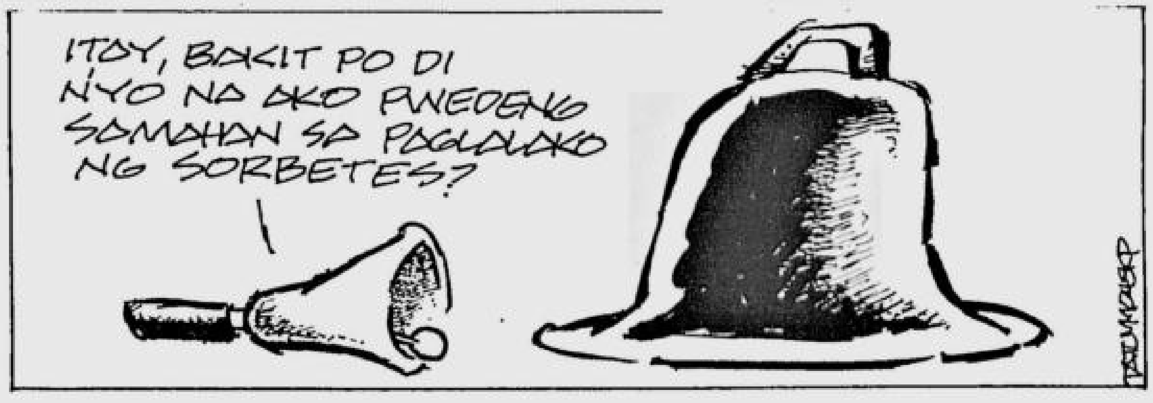
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, ANG GUSTO DAW NG GOBYERNO, TWO-CHILD POLICY!!!
OKEY LANG 'YUN!! DALAWANG ANAK..
SA BAWA'T MISIS KO!!! PUEDE UA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ITOY, BAKIT PO DI NYO NA AKO PWEDENG SAMAHAN SA PAGLALAKO NG SORBETES?

'I don't care less' and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How was your trip to Hong Kong last week?

Co-host: It was so unusual. Everywhere we go, *palagi kaming malapit sa* something Chinese!

(You were in Hong Kong—for **Bruce Lee's** sake! What's so unusual about that?)

* * *

Host: Your former boyfriend says he's mad at you these days.

Guest: Well, I don't care less!

(Nor do we!)

* * *

Host: How come we haven't seen you on TV recently?

Guest: Honestly, *mahina ako.* I'm always bed rest.

(*Kawawa ka naman*...)

* * *

Host: I like your last album!

Guest: Why, thank you!

Host: For our listeners, can you give an example of your song?

(*Ay*, an example!)

* * *

Host: What are your plans this year?

Guest: I'll have a big concert in October.

Host: Wow, good—it's a long overdue, *talaga!*

(*Ay*, a long overdue!)

* * *

Host: Do you hope to win in this beauty contest?

Guest: Well, I'm always in good faith!

(Good for you!)

* * *

Host: What will the weather be like this weekend? Any improvement?

Weather girl: Sorry to disappoint, but rains will still persit.

(*Ay*, persit!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang tawag sa* famous *na* clock *sa* London?

Contestant: London Clock!

(No, Big Ben!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* end product *ng* basketry?

Contestant: Abaca!

(No, basket!)

* * *

Host: What's the latest on **Angelo de la Cruz**, his situation under hostage?

Field reporter: No new developments yet, but we are asking for your prayers *na si* Angelo *ay makalayas na.*

(*Makalaya, hindi makalayas. Ito talaga, kahit kelan, pasaway.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sinong* Don *ito na ang pangalan niya ay may* Q *at* X?

Contestant: **Dawn Zulueta!**

(*Hindi*, Don Quixote!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang tawag ngayon sa dating* country *na* Cathay? *Nag-uumpisa rin sa* C *ang tawag sa* country *na yon ngayon.*

Contestant: California!

(No, China!)

* * *

Host: In terms of beauty, what do you think is your edge over the other lovely girls in the pageant?

Guest: As for me, my edge is *may* dimples *ako na parang* virgin.

(Wheee!)

* * *

Host: What have you done to make yourself a better actress?

Guest: I sleep well, eat good foods, took up workshops and acted in many theater guilt!

(*Ano raw?!*)

* * *

Host: What is the secret of your success in the business world?

Guest: Honestly, *lahat ay ginawa ko nang buong* sincere!

(*Aprub!*)

'Dodgeball'

BEN Stiller's new starrer, "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," impressed Hollywood when the small film trounced the competition and ruled the box office with its whopping first-day gross take—$30 million!

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2 BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3
4 (SDDS) PERLAS
5 GARFIELD
6 (DOLBY) I - ROBOT
7 (DTS) CATWOMAN
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9 RESERVE

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Cinemalaya: Discover, honor, encourage new filmmakers

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

MARYO J. de los Reyes' winning the best director awards for his work on "Magnifico" should inspire independent producers to come up with quality movies that can inspire viewers, earn loads of cash at the box office, give big production companies a run for their money and their awards, and, more importantly, pull the local film industry out of its slump.

Produced by Violett Films, "Magnifico" also won a best actor grand slam for its young lead, Jiro Manio.

While the top production outfits—Star Cinema, Regal Films, Viva Films—continue to churn out their annual, if reduced, quota of movies, a call is being made for new filmmakers to create fresh works in the First Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

Organized by the Cultural Center of the Philippines with the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) and the University of the Philippines Film Institute, Cinemalaya is slated for Feb. 19 to 25, 2005. It is open to those who have not yet directed a full-length commercial film.

Critical condition

The festival is supported by producers and directors as well as by top businessmen, academicians and even TV executives. Among those present during the Cinemalaya launch last week at Dream Bar in Makati City were Unitel Pictures' Tony Gloria ("Crying Ladies" producer and distributor of Ramona Diaz's controversial documentary, "Imelda"), filmmakers Lav Diaz and Banaue Miclat, businessman Tonyboy Cojuangco and Bobby Barreiro of ABC 5, National Artist for Cinema Eddie Romero, Caloy de Leon of the FDCP, Nick Tiongson of the UP College of Mass Communication, and Cultural Center of the Philippines president Nestor Jardin.

Jardin noted that for almost a decade now, the Filipino film industry has been in critical condition, proof of which is the decreasing number of films produced every year. "Eight or nine years ago, the industry was able to produce 230 films," said Jardin. "This year, the industry would be lucky if production ever reached 60, compared to the 80 films produced last year.

"The film industry needs all the help it can get to encourage young filmmakers to produce films," he added. "Cinemalaya aims to discover, encourage and honor a new breed of movie mavericks. The festival seeks to elevate independent films to the mainstream."

The organizers hope that through the festival, young filmmakers will be able to express their own concepts freely and not be limited by the industry's present condition, where artistic integrity is sacrificed in the pursuit of commercial success.

The weeklong Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival will feature competition and film exhibition as well as a film expo and market, seminars, conferences and a film congress on the promotion, marketing and distribution of independent movies.

Dec. 15

The Cinemalaya films will have the Filipino identity and culture as main narrative theme. They will be divided into two categories: the short feature (with 15- to 20-minute running time) and the full-length feature (90- to 120-minute running time). Entries must be submitted in digital or video format.

Makers of short features are encouraged to submit a synopsis of their work in Filipino or English, a brief resumé with two recent 2 x 2 photos of the filmmaker(s) together with a completed application form on or before Sept. 1 to CCP Media Arts Office (4th Floor, CCP Main Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City) or the FDCP office (Unit 2 JM Raymundo Bldg., 14 Balete Drive, New Manila, Quezon City).

The 10 best short feature entries will be announced on Dec. 15.

In the full-length category, filmmakers must submit a one- to three-page synopsis of their work in English or Filipino together with a brief resumé and two recent 2 x 2 photos of the filmmaker(s), samples of previous film works in CD/DVD/VHS format and an application form from July 30 to Aug. 15 to the above addresses.

By Aug. 31, a selection committee will have determined 20 semifinalists who will then be required to submit a full screenplay or a detailed treatment of their work, with a production schedule and a production budget, as well as counterpart financing plan on or before Sept. 20.

Announcement of the 10 finalists will be on Oct. 30.

Feb. 25, 2005 awarding

Each finalist will receive a seed investment of P500,000 from the Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc. and Dream Satellite TV. The amount will be released as follows: 50 percent upon selection and 50 percent upon submission of the final work.

Deadline for submission of the completed full-length film is Jan. 15, 2005.

The final work for both short and full-length features must be submitted in DVD format, properly labeled with the title, production company address and contact numbers, director's name and running time.

Awards for both categories will be given on Feb. 25, 2005 at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater). The best short feature will receive a P100,000 grant plus trophy. The best full feature will receive an additional P200,000 grant plus the Cinemalaya trophy.

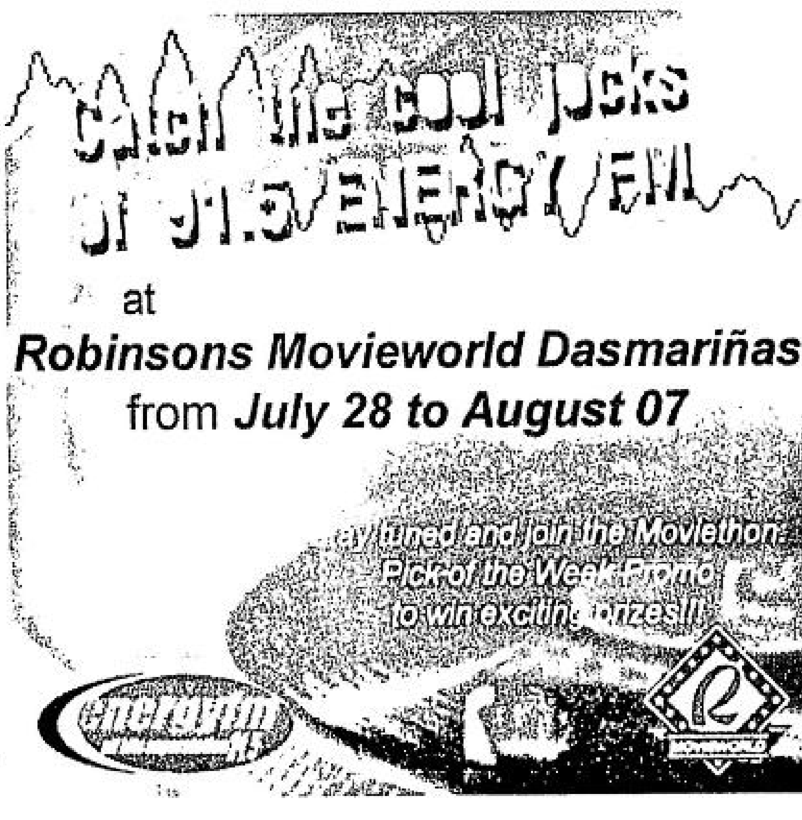
Application forms are available at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph, or e-mail freefest@yahoogroups.com or film@culturalcenter.gov.ph. For inquiries, call the CCP, 832-1125 local 1704 or 1705; FDCP, 7224482 or 7233648; or the UP Film Institute, 932-9361 or 9206863.

The CCP Media Arts office is open Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. FDCP and UP Film Institute are open Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Organizers of the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival hope to hold the event annually, preferably in November, and to eventually go beyond the Philippines.

JARDIN. "The movie industry needs all the help it can get."

MARYO J. His triumph with "Magnifico" should inspire producers.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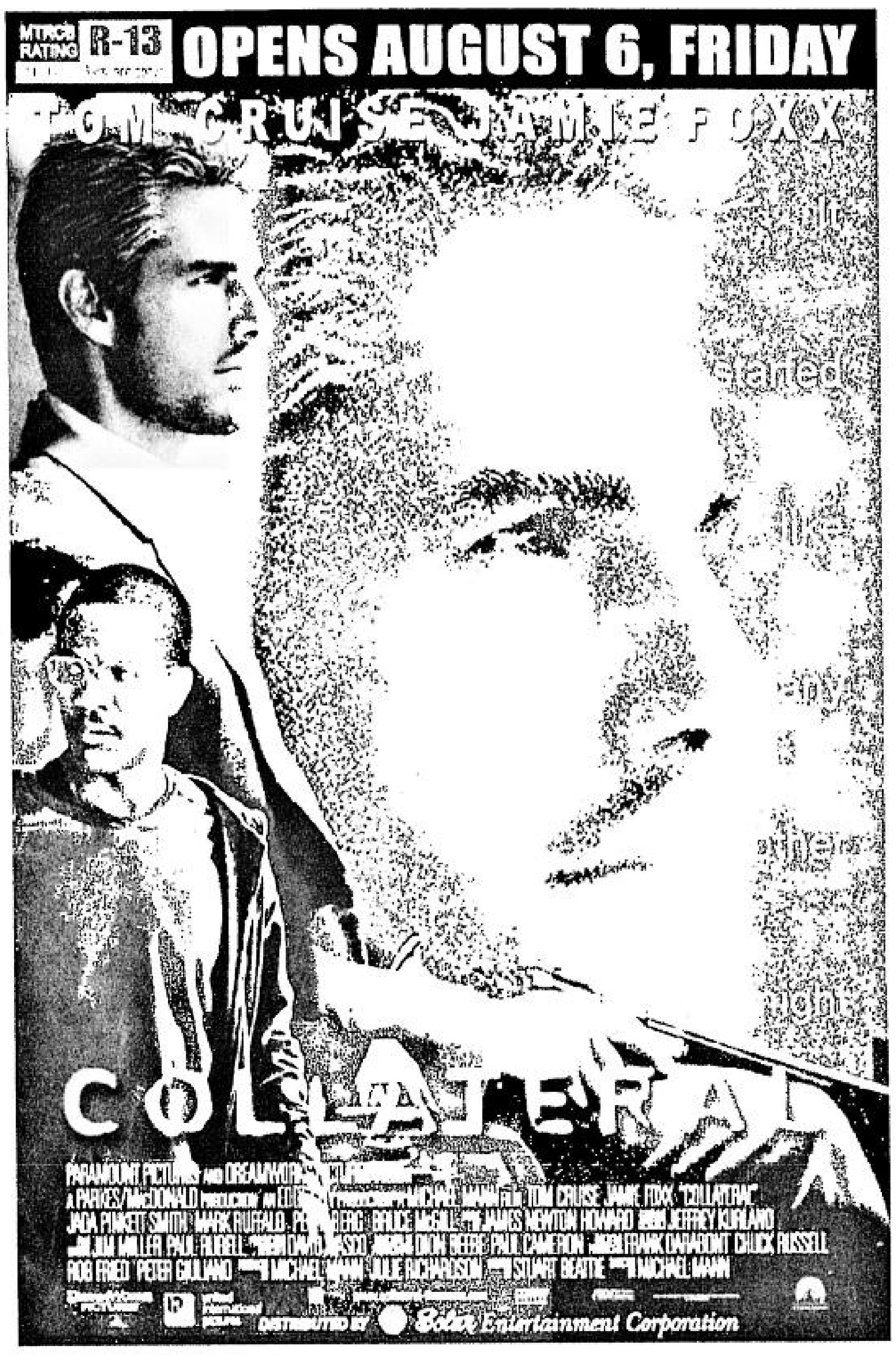
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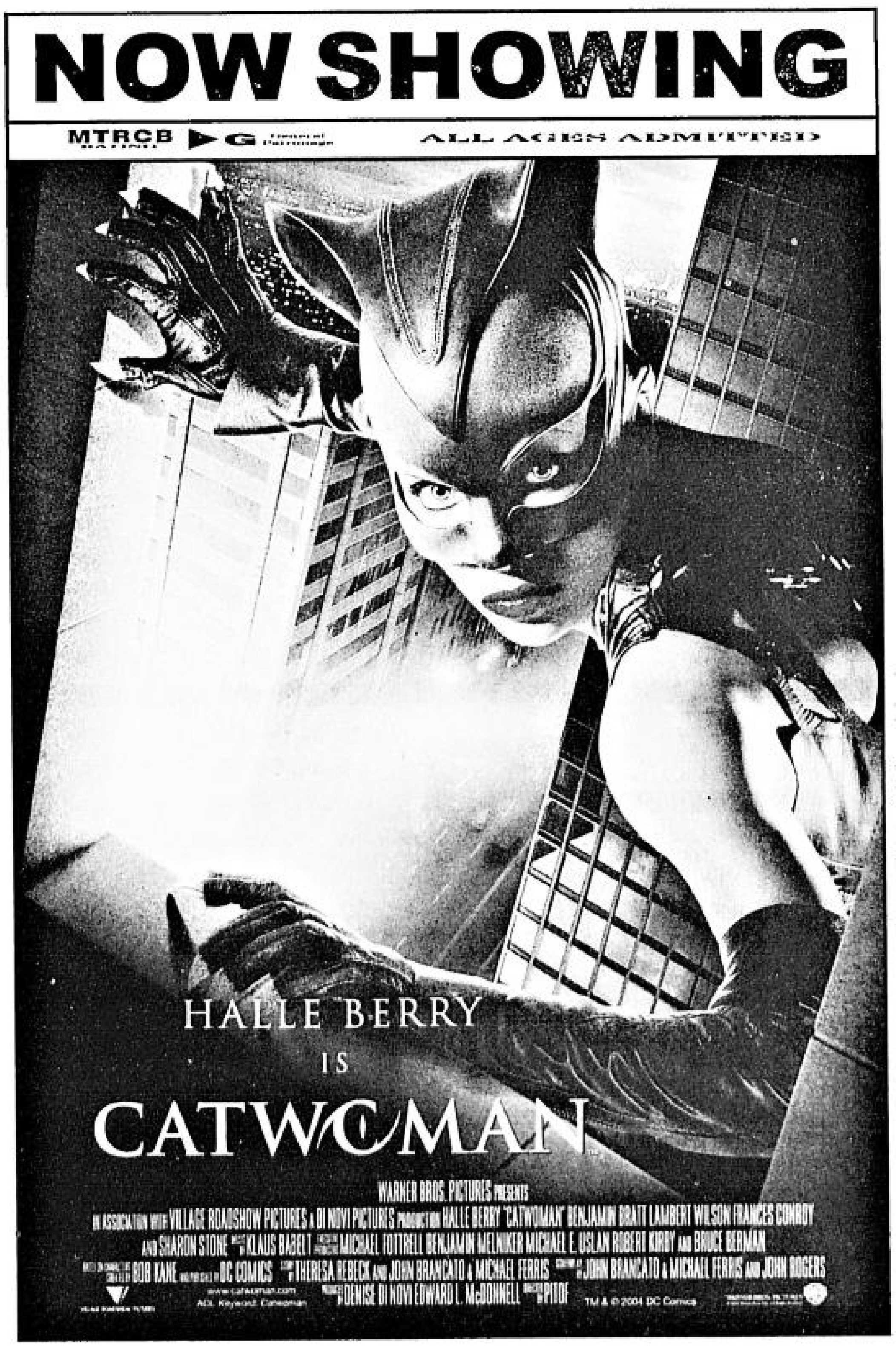
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27 scripts submitted for December film fest

By Nini Valera

A TOTAL of 27 scripts were submitted as entries to the 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival, according to Wilson Tieng, a member of the film festival executive committee and one of the script readers.

Tieng said eight of these scripts would be chosen by the screening committee this week as final festival entries.

But the list is not as impressive as in the past years in terms of star value. The "kings" of cinema, like Fernando Poe Jr. and Dolphy, are not in any of the entries. Cesar Montano, however, stars in "Panaghoy sa Suba," which he directs and bankrolls under his own CM Films.

Vilma Santos, who gave last year's film festival a miss after her sterling performance in "Dekada '70" in 2002, is back with "Mano Po 3," to be directed by Joel Lamangan, under MAQ Productions. Joining her in this latest take on the Chinoy saga are Christopher de Leon, Judy Ann Santos and Jay Manalo.

Interestingly, Lamangan and Jeffrey Jeturian are listed as directors for three movies. Jeturian is the director of Seiko Films' sex comedy "Bikini Open," which stars Christian Vasquez, Alfred Vargas, Diana Zubiri and Chery Pie Picache; MLR Films' drama "Minsan Pa," starring real life lovers Jomari Yllana and Ara Mina; and Angora Films' suspense thriller "Sa Pagkagat ng Dilim," with Jay Manalo and Alec Bovick.

Lamangan is the director of "Mano Po 3," BasFilm Productions' epic drama "Aishite Imasu 1941," starring Raymart Santiago, Judy Ann Santos and Dennis Trillo; and the Regal Films' drama-comedy "Que Sera Sera," which stars Eric Quizon, Kris Aquino, Mark Herras and Rainier Castillo.

Last year, Jeturian's "Bridal Shower," about three women in search of love and lasting relationships, became an urban hit if not a blockbuster.

Horror movies

Horror movies dominate the entries, with six on the list: "Wanted: Dead but Alive," starring Leo Martinez, Jeffrey Quizon, Paolo Contis and Nancy Castiglione, and directed by Tony Reyes; Angora Films' "Sa Pagkagat ng Dilim;" Genesis Entertainment's "Anino ni Amanda," directed by Joyce Bernal and starring Piolo Pascual or Jericho Rosales or Marvin Agustin, and Judy Ann Santos or Claudine Barretto; Canary Films' "Bulong," directed by Jose Javier Reyes, starring Dingdong Dantes, Marvin Agustin, Rica Peralejo, Alessandra de Rossi, Paolo Contis and Ana Capri; MegaVision's "Sigaw," directed by Yam Laranas and starring Richard Gutierrez, Jomari Yllana, Iza Calzado, Angel Locsin, James Blanco and Ronnie Lazaro; and a Vhong Navarro starrer "D' Anothers," directed by Joyce Bernal, but with no producer listed.

3 FILMS EACH. Jeturian (left) and Lamangan have six entries between them.

MAYOR VI. "Mano Po 3"

There is also a sprinkling of small, art house films, like director Gil Portes' "Once Upon a Life," starring Oyo Boy Sotto, Ricky Davao, Raymond Bagatsing, Angel Aquino, Cherry Pie Picache, Iya Villania; director Lav Diaz's "Heremias," starring Ronnie Lazaro; and Hinabing Pangarap's "Mekaniko ni Monica," directed by Cesar Hernando and starring Ralph Leonardo and Iolanda Palma.

Dramas and others

But the most popular genre remains to be drama, with eight entries: Violett Films' "Guardia de Honor," starring Jericho Rosales, Iza Calzado and Eddie Garcia, and directed by Mel Chionglo; RNB Films' "Pinilakang Tabing," starring Eddie Garcia, Maricel Soriano, Ricky Davao, Dan Alvaro, Armida Siguion-Reyna, and Gloria Romero, directed by Elson Montalbo; Lamangan's "Mano Po 3," and "Aishite Imasu 1941," Hernando's "Makaniko," Diaz's "Heremias;" Portes' "Once Upon a Life;" and ABS-CBN/Star Cinema's "Lihim," directed by Rafael "Cholo" Laurel and starring Jericho Rosales, Diether Ocampo, Claudine Barretto, Hilda Koronel, Gloria Diaz and Dante Rivero.

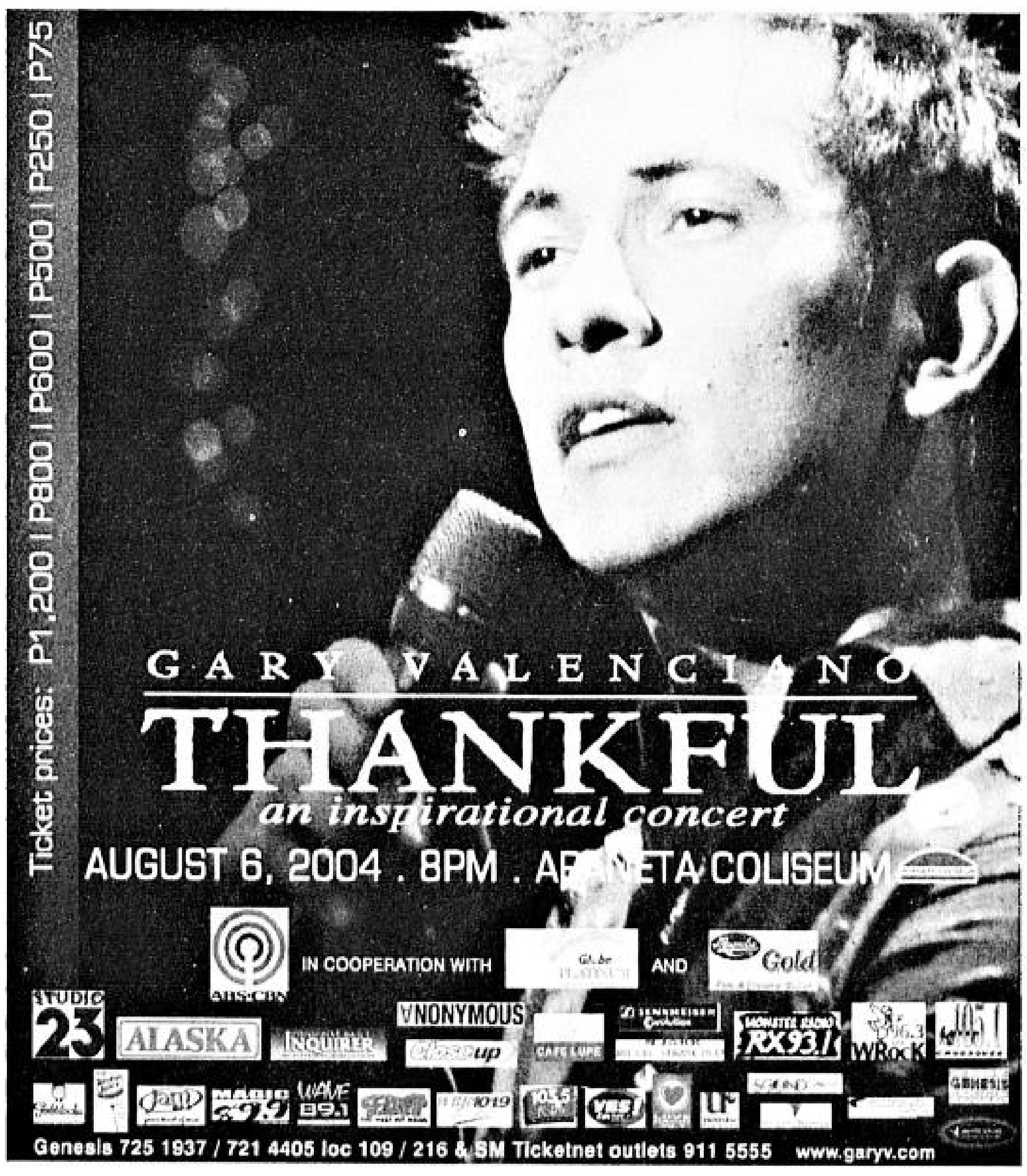
> Horror movies dominate entries, but none of Dolphy or FPJ

The other entries are "Black Eye," starring Richard Gomez, Ara Mina, Albert Martinez and Jiro Manio, and directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes; Imus Productions' "Star Walker," starring Jolo Revilla, Shaina Magdayao, Sarah Geronimo, and Rainier Castillo, and directed by Peque Gallaga; Maverick Films' "Kulas Madulas," starring Janno Gibbs or Ogie Alcasid or Andre E, and Cindy Kurleto, Iza Calzado, and Angel Locsin, and directed by Edgardo Vinarao; Apache Films' "Me King," starring Derek Dee, Ian Veneracion, Jolina Magdangal, Maricar de Mesa, John Regala, Ryan Eigenmann, and Asia Agcaoili, and directed by Toto Natividad; Red Sun Productions' "Nino," starring Eddie Garcia, Kurt Perez, Tony Ferrer, Robert Arevalo, Charlie Davao and Marisa del Mar, and directed by Romy V. Suzara; OctoArts Films' "Enteng Kabisote," starring Vic Sotto, Michael V., Kristine Hermosa, Alice Dixon, Aiza Seguerra, and Oyo Boy Sotto, and directed by Tony Y. Reyes; ALV Events' "The Ark," starring Vhong Navarro and Streetboys, and directed by Chito Roño; Viva Films' "Lastikman," starring Hero Angeles, Sarah Geronimo, Christopher de Leon, Edu Manzano, Mark Bautista, Geoffrey Eigenmann, and Ricky Davao, and directed by Mac Alejandre.

The eight finalists will be announced on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

DID YOU KNOW...

In Davao City one recent Sunday night, our peripatetic watcher saw singer **Robert Seña** perform at the birthday bash of local socialite Joji Ilagan Bian. After the party performance, Robert and a companion were spotted dining at the popular Suka at Sili restaurant at The Venue compound and the singer obviously enjoyed the food.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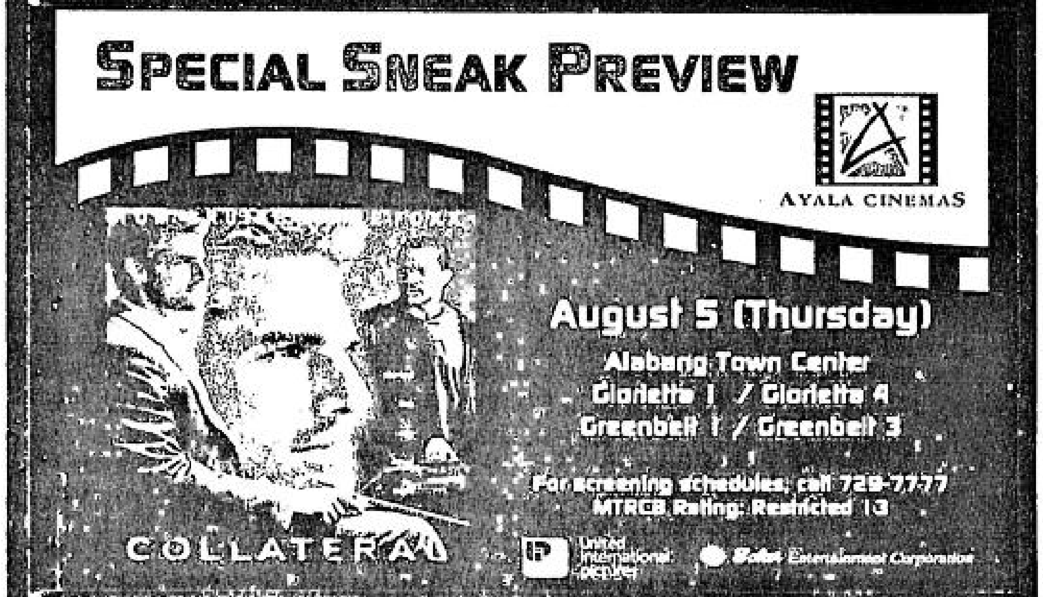
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 CATWOMAN	1 BEAUTIFUL LIFE	1 GARFIELD	1 I, ROBOT 12 30, 2 45, 5 00, 7 15, 9 30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 I, ROBOT 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 8 45, 11 00	1 GARFIELD
2 GARFIELD	2 CATWOMAN	2 ETERNAL SUNSHINE	2 CATWOMAN 12 30, 2 50, 5 10, 7 30, 9 50	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 CATWOMAN 2 10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10, 11 30	2 PRINCE & ME
3 ETERNAL SUNSHINE	3 I, ROBOT	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 CATWOMAN 1 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10 30		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 IMELDA 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30	3 THE CURSE
4 I, ROBOT	4 ELLA ENCHANTED	4 ELLA ENCHANTED		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 GARFIELD 1 45, 3 30, 5 15, 7 00, 8 45, 10 30	4 CATWOMAN
5 IMELDA		5 IMELDA		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ETERNAL SUNSHINE 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	5 ELLA ENCHANTED
		6 ALONG CAME POLLY			
		7 I, ROBOT			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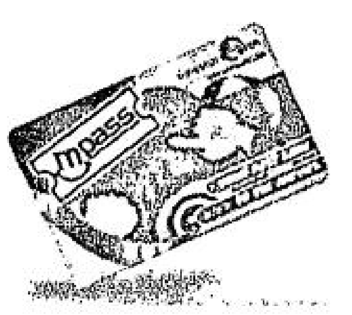

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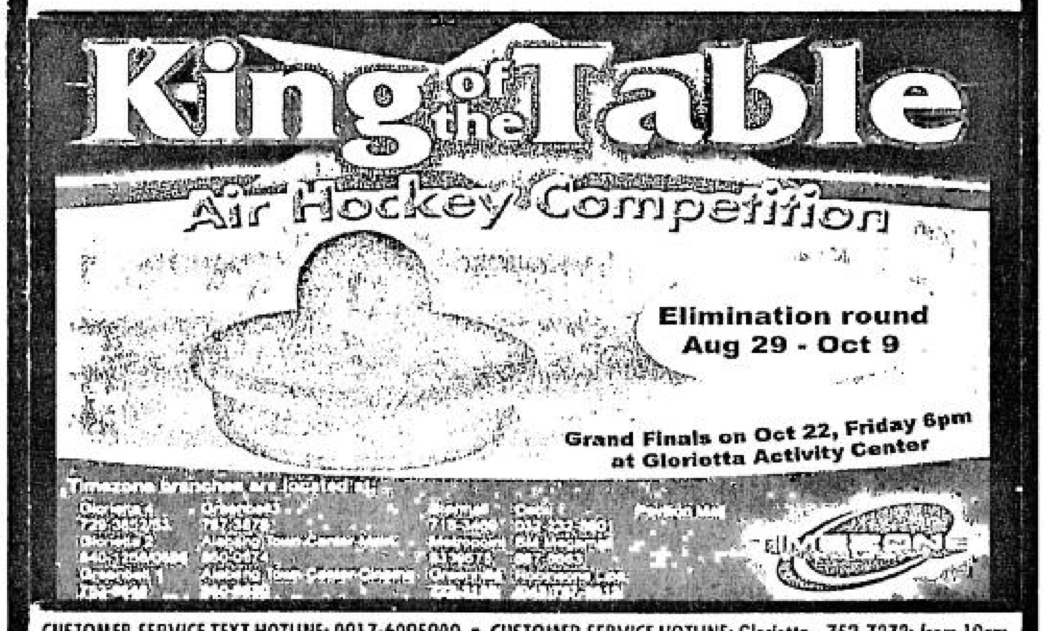
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ENTERTAINM NT

"BABY" stars (clockwise starting from Lea), David Shannon, Agot Isidro, Jett Pangan, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Miguel Faustman.

Lea wants a baby girl

By Marinel R. Cruz

LEA Salonga, who has been married to Chinese-American businessman Robert Chien for over six months now, would like to start her family with a baby girl.

> 'Masarap bihisan ang girl. It's like having a doll'

NO RUSH. "Pregnant" for her new theater role, Lea says that even with motherhood, she would like to keep on working but will be selective with her roles.

"Because all of my friends say girls are easier (to raise than boys)," said Lea, who is in Manila to perform in a musical called "Baby." "They mature quicker and are very independent.

"Besides," she added, "*masarap bihisan ang* girl. It's like having a doll."

Lea's mother, Ligaya, agrees. "Based on my experience, baby girls are easier to handle," Mrs. Salonga told INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday. "Boys cry a lot. They are more demanding than girls. Girls complain only when they are wet or hungry."

The musical director of "Baby," Gerard Salonga, is Lea's younger brother.

"When Gerard was going to school for the first time, he didn't want to enter the classroom," Mrs. Salonga recalled. "He held on tightly to my skirt and kept crying. I really had to be very patient with him. While Lea, at the age of 4, told me, 'leave me here, mom, I'll be fine.'

"Then again, I have friends who say girls are so difficult," said Lea. "I guess it really depends. It's God's call."

But she said she and Robert, who were both 32 when they got married last Jan. 13, do not at all feel pressured to have a baby anytime soon. They were married at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, California.

Lea said they are still enjoying their time together.

"My mom had me when she was 33," she said. "And there's also this feng shui master who told me not to start until I'm in my 30s, so it's perfect. I'm in no rush."

Lea said that once motherhood comes, she would like to continue working, "but I'd have to be very selective with my roles."

She said she plans to be "a hands-on mother" and does not want to have a big family. "I want no more than two or three kids," she said.

Lea, who now lives with Robert in Los Angeles, California, said she intends to raise their child in the States. But if Mommy Ligaya would have her way, she would rather that Lea's child grow up a Filipino.

"Filipinos are more respectful of their elders," Mrs. Ligaya explained. "They pay their respect by kissing their elders' hands and using 'opo' and 'oho'."

"Baby" is the first musical that Lea is doing since she got married. She had a series of shows in the US and also did a commercial for a hair conditioner when she was in Manila last summer.

She said she has been "shamelessly" looking for acting jobs in the States. "Seasons are very slow, not too many TV shows are retiring and very few new ones are coming out," she explained. "I'm just hungry. When we hear that somebody is leaving a show, I tell my agent to try and see if she could get me to sing for it.

"I don't care what it's for. I'm shameless. You can't really be a snob when it comes to things like this, you know. Besides, *sa* TV *wala namang kalaswaan diyan*."

"Baby," produced by Atlantis Productions and directed by Bobby Garcia, will run from Aug. 18 to Sept. 5 at the Meralco Theater in Pasig City.

Lea plays Lizzie, a college student in her 20s who finds herself pregnant. Playing her boyfriend is Laurence Olivier Award nominee David Shannon, husband to "Miss Saigon" star Ima Castro. Lea herself won an Olivier for her performance in "Miss Saigon" at London's West End.

"This is really interesting," Lea said of her role in "Baby." "In 'Miss Saigon,' although I was with child, you never saw me pregnant. Here, there'll be stages. The musical ends with me giving birth."

Co-starring Lea and David are Agot Isidro, Jett Pangan, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Miguel Faustman.

Featured in the "Baby" ensemble are Chari Arespacochaga, Cathy Azanza, Topper Fabregas, Christine Marquez, Jun Ofrasio and Robbie Zialcita.

SMART Buddy Pre-Paid zed INSTANT PANALOAD

zed TOP CHARTS

ROCK HITS

1	Easier To Run	*Linkin Park*	**WINTONE EASIER2RUN**
2	This Love	*Maroon 5*	**WINTONE THISLOVE**
3	Sunday Morning	*Maroon 5*	**WINTONE SUNDAYMORN**
4	My Immortal	*Evanescence*	**WINTONE IMMORTAL**
5	I'm Shakin'	*Rooney*	**WINTONE IMSHAKIN**
6	The Extremist	*Joe Satriani*	**WINTONE EXTREMIST**
7	Our Lives	*The Calling*	**WINTONE OURLIVES**
8	I Miss You	*Blink-182*	**WINTONE MISS**
9	The Greatest View	*Silverchair*	**WINTONE GREATEST1**
10	I Believe In A Thing Called Love	*The Darkness*	**WINTONE CALLED**

POP HITS

1	My Happy Ending	*Avril Lavigne*	**WINTONE HAPPYEND**
2	Everytime	*Britney Spears*	**WINTONE EVERYTIME**
3	Uptown Girl	*Westlife*	**WINTONE UPTOWN**
4	Let's Get It Started	*Black Eyed Peas*	**WINTONE LETSGET**
5	Take My Breath Away	*Jessica Simpson*	**WINTONE TAKEBREATH**
6	Be With You	*Atomic Kitten*	**WINTONE BWYOU**
7	100 Years	*Five For Fighting*	**WINTONE 100YRS**
8	Like A Rose	*A1*	**WINTONE LIKEAROSE**
9	Milkshake	*Kelis*	**WINTONE MILKSHAKE**
10	Everything	*Alanis Morrissette*	**WINTONE EVERYTHING**

RnB HITS

1	Officially Missing You	*Tamia*	**WINTONE OFFICIALLY**
2	Ignition	*R. Kelly*	**WINTONE IGNI**
3	Talk About Our Love	*Brandy feat. Kanye West*	**WINTONE TALKABOUT**
4	I Don't Wanna Know	*Mario Winans*	**WINTONE DNTKNOW**
5	Beautiful	*Snoop Dogg feat. Pharrell*	**WINTONE BEAUTI**
6	Say My Name	*Destiny's Child*	**WINTONE SAYMYNAME**
7	Confessions Pt. 2	*Usher*	**WINTONE CONFPT2**
8	If I Ain't Got You	*Alicia Keys*	**WINTONE AINTGOTU**
9	Super Duper Love	*Joss Stone*	**WINTONE SUPRDUPR**
10	Fallen	*Mya*	**WINTONE FALLEN2**

WALLPAPERS

WINMMS IROBOT1 WINMMS IROBOT4 WINMMS IROBOT7 WINMMS AUTO WINMMS DEVIL1

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WINMMS SPLAT WINMMS TIGERLUV WINMMS DATEBEAR WINMMS BOYLOVE WINMMS HOLYCAT

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WINPIC GALAW WINPIC PAKISS8 WINPIC TAKECARE2 WINPIC WIWI1 WINPIC LOVLDOG

HANDLE WITH care Beer Pa! be my Angel I ♥ U FOREVER

WINPIC HUGHEART WINPIC HANDLE WINPIC BEERPA2 WINPIC MYANGEL3 WINPIC LUV4EVER

OPM Hits

1	Nananaginip Ng Gising	*Sarah Geronimo*	**WINTONE NANANAGINIP**
2	Ba't Di Mo Pagbigyan	*King*	**WINTONE BATDIMO**
3	Hands To Heaven	*Christian Bautista*	**WINTONE HANDS2HVN**
4	Noypi	*Bamboo*	**WINTONE NOYPI**
5	Spageti Song	*Sexbomb*	**WINTONE SPAG**
6	Kung Mahal Mo Sya	*Jay-R*	**WINTONE KUNGMAHAL**
7	Balisong	*Rivermaya*	**WINTONE BALISONG**
8	I'm Sorry	*Bituin Escalante*	**WINTONE IMSORRY**
9	Let Me Be The One	*Jimmy Bondoc*	**WINTONE LETMEBE2**
10	Long Distance	*Salbakuta*	**WINTONE LONGDISTNCE**

POLYTONES

1	Hands To Heaven	*Christian Bautistan*	**WINPOLY HANDS2HVN**
2	Toxic	*Britney Spears*	**WINPOLY TOXIC**
3	Out Is Through	*Alanis Morrissette*	**WINPOLY OUTIS**
4	Just A Little While	*Janet Jackson*	**WINPOLY JUSTAWYL**
5	In The End	*Linkin Park*	**WINPOLY INTHEEND**
6	Hey Ya	*Outkast*	**WINPOLY HEYYA**
7	This Love	*Maroon 5*	**WINPOLY THISLOVE**
8	Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**WINPOLY WERISLUV**
9	Take Me Away	*Fefe Dobson*	**WINPOLY TAKEAWAY**
10	All At Sea	*Jamie Cullum*	**WINPOLY ATSEA**

POW PICK OF THE WEEK

POW	KEYWORD
Logo	POWLOGO
Pic Message	POWPIC
Mono Ringtones	POWTONE
Poly Ringtones	POWPOLY
OPM Ringtones	POWOPM
Rock Ringtones	POWROCK
Girl Logos	POWGAL
Guy Logos	POWGUY
Wallpaper	POWMMS

Send keyword to **288**.

LOGOS

WINLOGO SCORPION6 WINLOGO KIKAY2 WINLOGO TATUHARTS

WINLOGO INLOVE2 WINLOGO PANTY WINLOGO LUVANGEL

GOOD GIRL WINLOGO GOODGIRL WINLOGO THORNS WINLOGO DOLPHINS

WINLOGO BEST3 WINLOGO GWAPO3 WINLOGO FLAME1

WINLOGO ILU2 WINLOGO CUTEKONO WINLOGO IMY

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WINLOGO FLOWCUTE WINLOGO SLEEPBER

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PLDT's 6-month profit soars to ₱12B

By Clarissa S. Batino

TELECOM giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday announced a first-half net income of P12 billion, up 573 percent from P1.8 billion a year ago and exceeded the P11.2-billion net profit for the whole of 2003.

PLDT credited its strong performance to the sustained strength of the wireless business, more stable fixed-line operations and promising ventures into new technology and call centers.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said that with the record-breaking first-semester performance, the company has raised its profit target this year to P22 billion from P18 billion, the bulk of which would still come from its wholly owned subsidiary, Smart Communications Inc.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said the telecom giant would continue "to drive and own the market" as a way of ensuring "boundless growth." Pangilinan added that PLDT "does not entertain the concept of (market) saturation."

"We are relentlessly innovating and offering products significant to Filipinos. We will push the saturation wall by continuously revisiting business models and offering innovative products," Nazareno said.

Pangilinan said PLDT's returning strength would allow it to pay at least 10 percent in dividends to common shareholders by the first half of 2005.

Smart posted a net profit of P11.6 billion in the first six months of 2004, nearly double the P6.1 billion in the first half of 2003, as subscribers, including Talk N' Text users, grew to 16.1 million or almost 60 percent of the mobile phone market.

"The May elections provided an extra boost and given that, we expect the third and fourth quarters to trend more closely the first-quarter performance," Nazareno said.

During the second quarter, PLDT's net income reached P6.8 billion, up from P5.24 billion in the first three months. Smart contributed P6.45 billion from April to June against P5.15 billion in January to March.

The landline business contributed P397 million while the information and communications arm called ePLDT brought in about P70 million during the first six months. ePLDT owns two call centers and will open another this year to bring its call center seats to more than 2,000 by the end of 2004.

Consolidated revenue for the first half of this year rose by 20 percent to P55.6 billion from P46.2 billion while operating expenses went up by only 4 percent to P33.05 billion from almost P32 billion a year ago.

Of the total sales in the first half, P30.9 billion came from Smart, P23.2 billion from fixed-line operations, and P1.1 billion from ePLDT.

This year, PLDT has not earmarked provisions for losses or job cuts unlike in the first half of 2003 when its P6.9-billion net income was eroded substantially to P1.8 billion due to provisioning.

Gov't to review tax perks of ecozone firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic team will review the tax incentives enjoyed by firms registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) for possible reduction or withdrawal of some of them due to concerns on the country's fiscal problem.

An official from the Department of Finance said the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee, the agency tasked to set economic policies and programs, 'might eventually subject the perks enjoyed by Peza locators to changes to complement the government's agenda of rationalizing its fiscal incentives.

Currently, the economic team has included the fiscal incentives rationalization program (FIRP) in the government's revenue-enhancement measures, which are intended to help ease the budget deficit and wipe it out by 2009. The program, however, is currently focused on the incentives that are granted by special laws and excludes those granted by Peza.

"Peza has its own law, and the ongoing review only covers the incentives given under special laws. But eventually, we may also look into the incentives by Peza," Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said.

Companies registered with Peza are exempted from various taxes, and are only required to pay 5-percent gross income tax. The tax perks are intended to attract companies to the various economic zones nationwide. Peza locators, however, are required to dedicate at least 70 percent of their production for the export market.

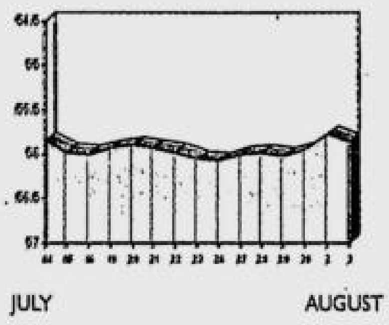
In the ongoing review of the FIRP, economic managers are proposing that all fiscal incentives currently granted under different special laws be consolidated into a single law for easier administration. The passage of the law is also expected to result in the reduced

GOV'T/B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 55.865 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 3, 2004

¥ 110.92 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 3, 2004

GOLD: $390.90-391.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 3, 2004

August 3, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830910	1.000000	55.8530
Japan	Yen	0.007506	0.009033	0.5045
United Kingdom	Pound	1.519319	1.828500	102.1272
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106539	0.128220	7.1615
Switzerland	Franc	0.650165	0.782473	43.7035
Canada	Dollar	0.623947	0.750920	41.9411
Singapore	Dollar	0.484214	0.582751	32.5484
Australia	Dollar	0.585313	0.704424	39.3442
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.204063	2.652590	148.1551
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221570	0.266660	14.8938
Brunei	Dollar	0.482807	0.581058	32.4538
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000110	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.020124	0.024219	1.3527
UAE	Dirham	0.226233	0.272272	15.2072
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.203500	67.2191
Argentina	Peso	0.278455	0.335121	18.7175
Brazil	Real	0.272787	0.328299	18.3365
Denmark	Kroner	0.134493	0.161862	9.0405
India	Rupee	0.017966	0.021622	1.2077
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218690	0.263193	14.7001
Mexico	New Peso	0.072900	0.087735	4.9003
New Zealand	Dollar	0.531850	0.640082	35.7505
Norway	Kroner	0.118592	0.142725	7.9716
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014216	0.017109	0.9556
South Africa	Rand	0.131855	0.158687	8.8631
Korea	Won	0.000714	0.000859	0.0480
Sweden	Kroner	0.108494	0.130572	7.2928
Syria	Pound	0.022223	0.026745	1.4938
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024504	0.029490	1.6471
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000434	0.000522	0.0292

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.15% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.15 percent lower yesterday, extending Monday's losses on continuing concerns over the latest terror alerts in the United States and high oil prices, dealers said.

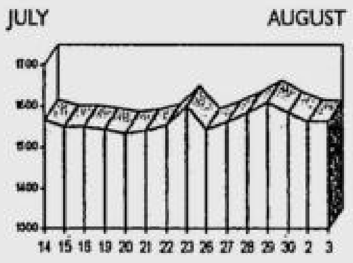
Share prices are expected to consolidate in the coming sessions after the recent volatility, they said, adding that Philippine Long Distance Telephone's strong interim results prevented a further slide.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 2.44 points at 1,562.03 having traded between 1,558.75 and 1,573.89.

Volume was 1.14 billion shares worth P567.55 million after 1.01 billion shares worth P712.15 million on Monday.

Losers beat gainers 39 to 33, with 41 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index lost 12.23 points to 991.20, the commercial-industrial index gained 2.16 to 2,471.12, property shed 4.46 to 523.07, mining was up 20.06 at 1,708.25, oil was down 0.07 at 1.51 and banking and finance retreated 3.14 to 458.92. *AFP*



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Banco de Oro profit up 25%

BANCO De Oro Universal Bank, the banking arm of mall magnate Henry Sy, reported a 25-percent rise in net profit to P831 million in the first half of the year from a year ago on higher interest income.

BDO corporate information officer Elmer Serrano yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange the increase was due to the 29-percent improvement in net interest income to P2.28 billion from P1.76 billion in 2003.

"This is attributable to healthy growth rates in funding sources and the loan and investment portfolios," Serrano said.

Non-interest income declined by 29 percent to P1.03 billion due to lower trading gains.

Operating expenses, on the other hand, declined by 5 percent to P2.13 billion from a year ago.

"The decrease in operating expenses is primarily due to nonrecurring costs related to integration expenses for the First e-Bank branches," Serrano said.

The bank's total resources hit P159.4 billion as of end-June, rising by 25 percent from a year ago.

Deposits increased by 20 percent to P109.9 billion while bills payable expanded by P10.6 billion to P27.2 billion. The increase in borrowings was due to the $150 million in senior notes issued in October 2003.

The bank's net loans stood at P59 billion, up by 9.6 percent from a year ago while capital funds increased to P15.6 billion primarily due to retained earnings.

Meanwhile, BDO's branch network reached 179, complemented by 301 automated teller machines.

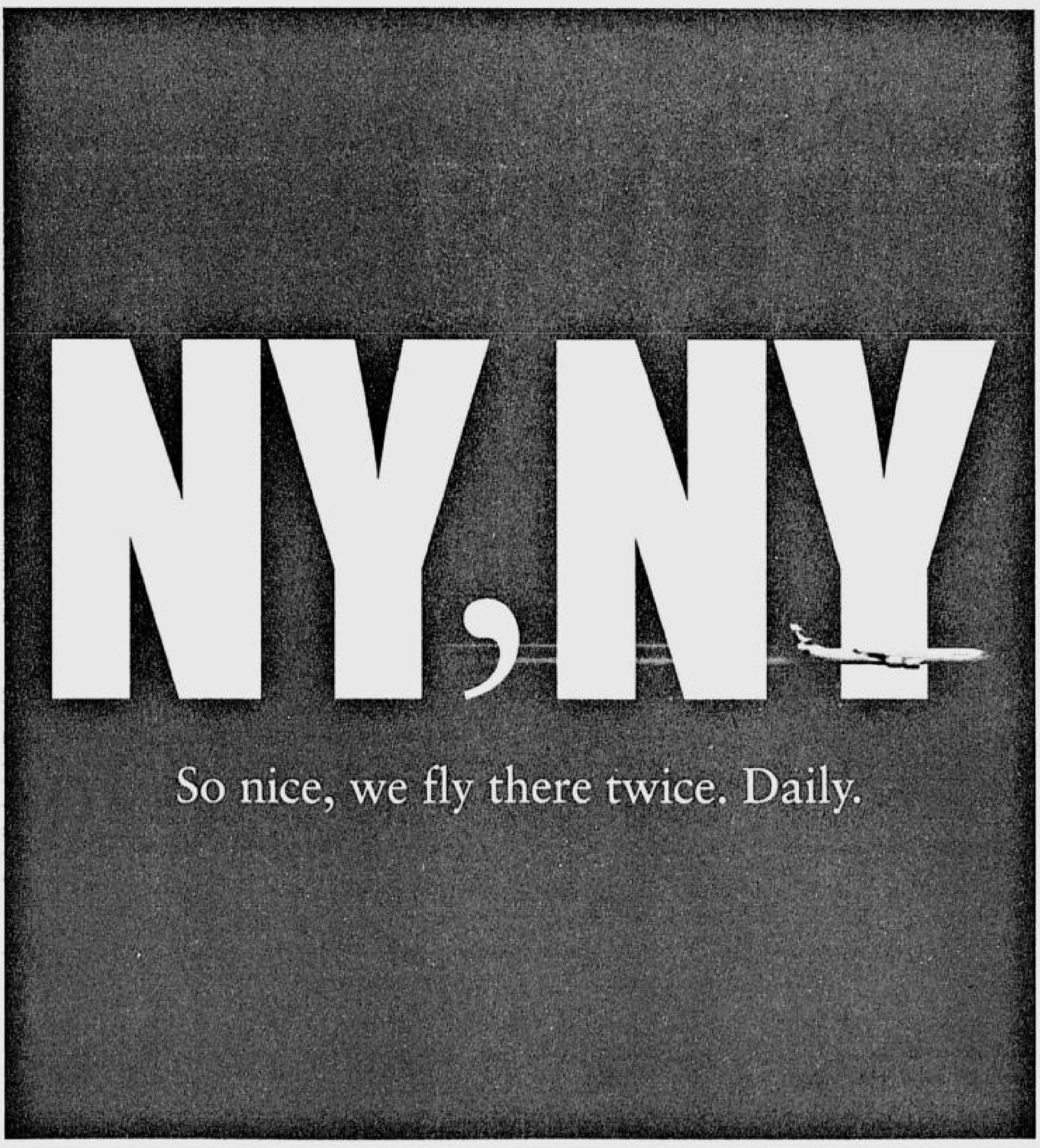
For the full year, BDO expects net profit to rise by about 20 percent to P1.8 billion from a year ago on stronger interest earnings. BDO president Nestor Tan earlier said that while growth would likely be flat in the first semester due to election-related uncertainties, earnings would pick up in the second half.

The bank's bid to buy the 29-percent controlling stake held by the state-owned pension fund Social Security System in Equitable PCI Bank is still pending in court litigation. *Doris C. Dumlao*

INTEREST RATES

August 03, 2004-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART 1 3-Aug-04	MART 1 2-Aug-04
1 Month	7.3633	7.4583
3 Months	7.5058	7.7683
6 Months	7.385	8.7183
1 Year	9.5808	9.7267
2 Years	10.0433	10.1117
3 Years	10.6167	10.6589
4 Years	11.0467	11.1133
5 Years	11.615	11.6283
7 Years	12.1033	12.1233
10 Years	12.6233	12.6679
20 Years	12.945	12.9833
25 Years	13.2268	13.2286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DOF to review Pagcor finances

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance will look into the books of state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to check on its system of generating and handling revenue, and to determine how the gaming firm can help in solving the country's budget problems.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the DOF was set to conduct a study on Pagcor's finances because President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to find out whether Pagcor was earning enough for the government.

"Specifically, the President wants to find out whether the revenue generated by Pagcor is at par with what its counterparts in other countries are earning," Amatong told reporters.

Since Pagcor is a revenue-earning government firm, it should do something to help in the government's efforts to address the county's serious fiscal problem, she said.

The budget deficit is expected to reach P197.8 billion by yearend. The government is targeting to wipe it out by 2009.

Malacañang recently signed an executive order transferring Pagcor from the supervision of the Office of the President to that of the DOF.

Now that Pagcor is under its supervision, the finance department will be setting revenue targets for the gaming firm, as it does for the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. Under the DOF, Pagcor is seen to perform the function of a major revenue contributor to the government.

Amatong said in an earlier press briefing that the DOF would help Pagcor improve its financial performance, and increase its contributions to the national government. Government-owned and -controlled corporations, such as Pagcor, are required by law to remit 50 percent of their net income to the state coffers in the form of dividends.

In 2003, Pagcor remitted P8 billion to the government, making it the third largest contributor among government agencies after the BIR and the BOC.

Placing Pagcor under the DOF is part of the government's streamlining program.

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DTI seen proposing changes in BOT law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has formed a group to draft proposed amendments to the Build-Operate-Transfer law of 1994 or Republic Act No. 7718 and its implementing rules.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima yesterday said there might be a need to amend the BOT law in order to enhance its provisions.

Purisima said a review was being made to find out if amendments to the law's implementing rules would be enough to do the job.

"The President, in her 10-point agenda, underscored the need for massive infrastructure reforms in the agriculture, education, transport, information and communications technology, power and water sectors," he said.

"However, the government's limited resources fall short of the huge investment requirements for infrastructure," he added. "Of the required $4 billion to $5 billion annual investments for infrastructure development, our government (only has) $1 billion a year."

The first BOT law, RA No. 6957, was enacted in 1990 and brought into the local power sector investments amounting to $2.68 billion.

RA No. 7718 later amended the original law to increase private sector investment in infrastructure. In the five years up to 1999, a total of $15.78 billion in private investment was made in the power, transport, water, information and communication technology and property development.

Phone maker reaching out to ARMM's youth

COTABATO CITY—Giant phone manufacturer Nokia, through its Make a Connection Program, has tied up with the Consuelo Foundation and the Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities Inc.—Women in Enterprise Development (NDFCAI-WED) for a program that aimed to uplift the lives of at least 50 indigenous youths in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

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Leadership

The program, involving community-based sustainable livelihood projects, targets out-of-school youth as its main beneficiaries.

Under the project, Nokia and its partners hope to build their beneficiaries' self-confidence by helping them "understand and appreciate themselves better as individuals and as members of a community with distinct cultural identity."

MEMBERS of the Pansacacal Indigenous Youth Organization (Piyo) prepare some of their new bakery's offerings. RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Prior to the signing of the memorandum of agreement among the participating groups in June, the beneficiaries had already received extensive training and seminars "to develop leadership skills and to foster service orientation among indigenous youth in their community."

Training workshops and seminars on baking, silk screening and framing, fish vending and crab fattening were given to chosen members of the Pansacala Indigenous Youth Organization (Piyo) and the Bucana-Kidpo Youth Organization (Bunakid) here.

FEATURE

Sitio Kidpo in Barangay Kalanganan I is about five kilometers away from the city. About 100 families live in the area.

Livelihood

Residents of the village cross the river daily to get supplies from the city, including bread.

But on June 5, the community had their first taste of freshly baked bread from the first bakery in the area, managed by the youth beneficiaries of the program.

The bakery, which is open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., is being manned by about 17 leader-beneficiaries.

For the bakery alone, Nokia and its partners shelled out about P64,000.

Rico Manda, 22, leader of the Bunakid (Bucana-Kidpo Youth Organization) and one of the beneficiaries, said the program had helped him a lot.

Manda's group is participating in the program's crab fattening project.

He said his group had started with 5,000 crablets for fattening. He is estimating to generate about P180,000 upon harvest.

Crabs are usually harvested after three to four months.

Realizing dreams

Like other people his age, Manda, the eldest of seven, said he wished to get college education someday.

He was hoping that his newly-acquired skills would help him realize that dream.

Myrna Lim, executive director of NDFCAI-WED said the program was designed to help out-of-school youths to develop in them the "value of transparency, responsibility and accountability." *Josele d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

OTHER program beneficiaries try the freshly baked bread.

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AEV profit up 4% in H1

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING firm Aboitiz Equity Ventures said its net profit rose 4 percent to P1.23 billion in the first six months, up from P1.18 billion in the same period last year.

Before interest and taxes, earnings rose 1.7 percent to P2.8 billion in the first half. This is equivalent to earnings per share of 25 centavos, the company said in its disclosure.

AEV's power group, led by Davao Light & Power Co. and Luzon Hydro Corp., chipped in P552 million to the total earnings.

AEV's banking units contributed P382 million in the first half of 2004, which was, however, lower by 37 percent from year-ago level.

The Pilmico Food Group, which is involved in flour and feed milling business, posted the biggest increase in income contributions. It chipped in P211 million, up 196 percent from the level in the same period last year.

The transport group turned in P332 million, an increase of 36 percent, primarily due to higher revenue. This group is made up of passenger and cargo shipping operator Aboitiz Transport System Corp., formerly WG&A and inter-island fastcraft ferry services operator Supercat Fast Ferry Corp., a joint venture between ATSC and Hong Kong Parkview Company.

Since December 2003, AEV's total assets increased by 4 percent to P33 billion. Total debt was up by 3 percent to P15 billion.

As of June 30, AEV's cash stood at P2.6 billion even after the payment of a cash dividend of 10 centavos per share, or a total of P497 million, in March this year.

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What a Guy

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

NOT content with keeping the ailing family patriarch away from his wife and the other children, 3D heir Gilbert Guy has reportedly even brought in the immigration dogs to force the deportation of his 74-year-old mother and three sisters to Canada.

The female Guys acquired Canadian passports during the martial law years, and the move to ship them out is apparently designed to keep the wife and the three younger sisters from physically contesting Gilbert's de facto guardianship of the wheelchair-bound patriarch. *(See Cocktales, July 30, 2004.)*

More important, with his sisters and mother bundled back to their Vancouver home, Gilbert would have virtual, uncontested run of the 3D household appliance business.

In the meantime, according to eyewitnesses, Gilbert has apparently not only doubled the number of security guards in the family's Libis, Quezon City, office compound, he even armed them with bullet-proof vests and shotguns and provided them with an armored vehicle while the family battles it out in court as to who has the real right to manage the family business.

According to his press release, Gilbert is the "80 percent stockholder" of Northern Islands Co., the marketing and trading arm of the 3D appliance factory, with the sisters and the rest of the family presumably controlling the balance of 20 percent.

Yet, in the same news release, Gilbert also claimed that his sisters had inveigled their father, stricken with Alzheimer's disease, into transferring majority control of Northern Islands to the mother and sisters' side.

Which brings up the question: If Gilbert really owns 80 percent of Northern Islands, why would his sisters need their father to wrest control of the company?

The answer to this corporate mystery may be provided by lawyers Andres Gatmaitan and Emmanuel Paras of the SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan for having structured the corporate layers for the interlocking family businesses.

The other side has, in addition to the Victor Chan law firm, Marcos-era Presidential Security Group legal chief Balbino Diego to represent the mother and the sisters.

And, finally, to disprove that he is not the "brother-from-hell" that his sisters now portray him to be, Gilbert is now dangling a once-a-month visitation day for their dad but on condition that "the parties agree to move for the dismissal of the [guardianship] petition."

In other words, Gilbert becomes the uncon-

COCKTALES/ B4

20-year T-bond rate rises to 12.875%

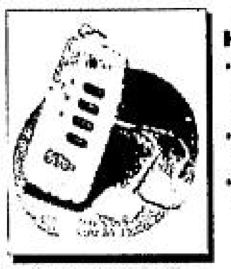
By Michelle V. Remo

TRADING of long-term government securities was lackluster during yesterday's auction, as the low volume of demand forced the 20-year treasury bond rate to rise to 12.875 percent.

The new rate for the 20-year debt paper was 50 basis points higher than the 12.375 percent recorded during its last offering on June 1.

The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee, however, said the 12.875-percent rate was still a reasonable level for the government to accept, considering that the 20-year bonds were already fetching a rate of 12.9

20-YR/ B4



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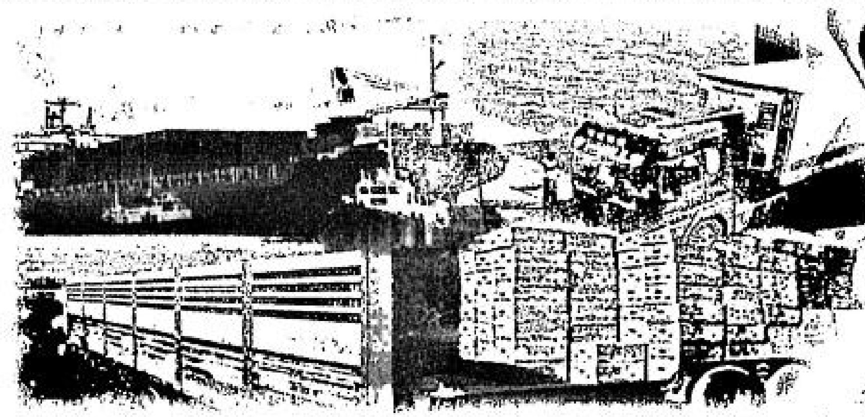

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Piltel nets ₱810M in 1st half

By Clarissa S. Batino

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. has ended the first half with an unexpected net profit of P810 million, a turnaround from net losses of P535 million a year ago, and double the company's P402 million profit forecast for the whole of 2004.

Piltel is now looking at a net profit of P1.1 billion to P1.2 billion this year, according to Manuel Pangilinan, chair of Piltel parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Piltel credited the stronger-than-expected earnings in the first half to the growing wireless business through its mobile brand Talk N' Text. The carrier counted 3.55 million subscribers as of end-June from 2.22 million a year ago.

Piltel's operating revenue jumped 53 percent to P3 billion from P1.9 billion a year ago. Operating costs eased by 4 percent to P1.8 billion in the first half from P1.9 billion in end-June 2003.

As a result, the company registered P1.2 billion in operating income as of end-June against only P54 million in the first half of 2003.

The company said profits grew in the second quarter from only P8 million in the first three months after a substantial drop in impairment provisions compared to previous years.

Piltel is expected to realize a much higher profit once a revenue-sharing deal with sister firm and soon-to-be majority shareholder Smart Communications Inc. is finalized in the next 30 days.

Smart gets half of Piltel's revenue from Talk N' Text for allowing the latter access to the Smart network. In the first half, Piltel paid Smart P2.8 billion and kept P2.6 billion for itself.

Sources said the revenue-sharing deal could change to 85-15 in favor of Piltel. This would enable Piltel to post substantial profits and to utilize billions of pesos in tax credits incurred from years of operating in losses.

Napoleon Nazareno, PLDT president, said that the group was tapping a consultant to determine the appropriate revenue sharing deal.

"We are proud to have achieved our goal of returning Piltel to profit ahead of our original target of end-2004," said Gregorio Atienza, Piltel president. "The final year-end result is still subject to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates."

Piltel still booked P79 million in losses due to fluctuations in the foreign exchange. A debt swap with Smart had made the latter its biggest creditor, holding $289 million of Piltel's $417 million restructured debt.

Eventually, Smart would own 92 percent of Piltel. Nazareno said that by the third quarter of the year, Piltel's earnings would be part of PLDT's consolidated finances.

"There could be pluses and minuses with the Piltel account," said Pangilinan. "But the impact on cash as well as on Smart should be neutral."

Piltel lost billions in pesos since 1997 when the Asian crisis that swelled its dollar debt aggravated worsening problems in operations.

The company failed to maximize its previous wireless technology that did not offer text messaging, forcing it to shift to the same GSM system used by its competitors.

Piltel said that 87 percent of its revenue came from Talk N' Text, courtesy of Smart's GSM network. Piltel continues to serve 46,903 landline subscribers as of end-June.

While its mobile subscribers grew, Piltel spent less for marketing and provisions. Marketing expenses fell 10 percent to P890 million from P991 million due to lower discounts and commissions.

Depreciation dropped 11 percent to P222 million, while other expenses related to impairment slid by 42 percent to P341 million from P589 million a year ago.

Management fees, however, increased by 30 percent to P497 million. These are payments related to outsourcing arrangements with PLDT and Smart.

By September, Smart would convert all of its Piltel convertible preferred shares to own 47 percent of Piltel. This would be followed by the purchase of 767 million common shares equivalent to about 45 percent.

Piltel has forecast a P402 million net income this year on revenues of P5.79 billion. Profits are originally projected to increase to P739 million next year and to P1.08 billion in 2006.

But with the strong second quarter performance, Piltel would have to revisit its financial outlook starting this year, according to Pangilinan.

Ginebra Q2 net earnings up 17%

GINEBRA San Miguel Inc. (GSMI) yesterday announced that its net earnings in the second quarter rose 17 percent to P534 million from P457.5 million in the same period last year.

In a disclosure, GSMI said its net profits had also increased by 3 percent to P954 million in the first six months from last year.

Robust sales in the domestic and international markets buoyed the second quarter performance of GSMI, a subsidiary of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

In the first quarter of 2004, GSMI posted net earnings of P420 million.

Operating income rose 4 percent to P1.47 billion in the first half from last year. Export volumes also soared 2,200 percent in the first half, with 1.1 million cases of hard liquor sold to other countries from January to June from just 48,000 cases a year earlier.

This growth rate is consistent with GSMI's export performance last year. For the whole of 2003, GSMI registered an 886-percent increase in exports, trading 887,000 cases from 90,000 in 2002.

GSMI is also pursuing a regional expansion strategy to tap foreign markets.

The company is currently working on potential joint ventures in Thailand and Vietnam, after seeing high growth rates in the hard liquor markets there.

GSMI will also use the excess capacity of San Miguel Corp.'s brewery facilities to produce liquor in identified liquor markets in the region.

"For the remaining part of the year, we expect local volumes to improve ... as we expect to reap benefits from our new market penetration programs and advertising campaigns," said Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., GSMI chair.

SMC also said that the revenues of its 100-percent owned Australian beer brewer J. Boag & Sons Ltd. jumped 29 percent in the first half.

SMC said J. Boag's sales volume expanded 5 percent during the same period.

San Miguel has facilities in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Malaysia.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Ayala Corp. to issue ₱5B in bonds

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA Corp. is planning to sell P5 billion worth of bonds through a public offering to refinance existing and future debts.

The country's largest and oldest conglomerate is now seeking the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to register its proposed P5-billion fixed rate bond offering, which will have a maturity of five years.

In a statement, Ayala also announced that it has just signed a P2.7-billion floating rate note facility agreement with a consortium of local banks to answer the funding requirement and help give the firm flexibility in timing its bond issue.

This short-term standby facility, which will be re-priced quarterly based on Mart 1 rates, will be funded by Banco de Oro Universal Bank-Trust Banking Department, BPI, China Banking Corp., Equitable PCIB Trust Banking, FMIC and Landbank.

Ayala Corp.'s proposed bond offering will be evaluated and rated by local credit ratings agency Philippine Rating Sevices Corp. or PhilRatings, an affiliate of Standard and Poor.

Seven finance institutions will arrange and manage the proposed bond offering: BDO Capital & Investment Corp., BPI Capital Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines , PCI Capital Corp., Standard Chartered Bank and ING Bank.

Analysts said that the proposed bond issue would allow the company to improve its debt profile by shielding itself against foreign exchange fluctuations.

"We view the issuance as a positive (development) for AC, since this will be used to refinance upcoming maturities," said Alfred Qajar Dy, vice president for research at Philippine Equity Partners Inc. "Take note as well that aside from refinancing existing maturities, this will improve the debt profile of Ayala Corp. since it will lessen their dependence on dollar debts."

Ayala Corp.'s move to raise peso-denominated funds is consistent with its strategy to shift the bulk of its borrowings to local currency.

Ayala Corp. will proceed with the bond offering once it feels the market is ready for a peso issuance of this size, officials said. The company has close to P6 billion in cash and $140 million in undrawn, committed credit facilities which can adequately cover its maturing obligations up to next year.

In its 2003 financial report, Ayala Corp.'s long-term debt at the parent level stood at P7.7 billion. The amount represented P4.45 billion in bank loans maturing up to 2007, and P3.25 billion in syndicated term loans maturing up to 2008.

Long-term debt of its subsidiaries stood at P50.66 billion in 2003, consisting of loans from banks, bonds that are due in 2007 and 2008, fixed rate corporate notes and other dollar-denominated debts.

Total debt of the company and its units, less current portion of liabilities, stood at P54 billion as of end-2003.

For the remaining part of this year until 2005, Ayala Corp.'s maturing debts stand roughly at $280 million. This amount can be covered by existing cash and undrawn credit facilities, officials said. *With a report from Reuters*

20-year T-bond rate rises to 12.875%

From page B3

percent in the secondary market.

Appetite for the 20-year paper was weak, with tenders reaching only P3.79 billion compared with the government's scheduled borrowing of P4.5 billion. The government accepted only P2.95 billion worth of bids to prevent a significant rise in interest rates, as banks sought yields of as high as 13.5 percent.

Yesterday's auction result was a turnaround from last Monday's performance of short-term government securities. All treasury bill tenors posted lower rates last Monday, indicating the market's preference for short-term instruments.

"There is not much demand for the 20-year T-bonds because traders went for treasury bills," Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola told reporters in a briefing after the auction.

During last Monday's auction for T-bills, the rate for the benchmark 91-day debt paper fell by 31.8 basis points to 7.125 percent. Rates for the 182- and 364-day bills also declined to 8.186 percent and 9.176 percent, respectively.

The decline in rates last Monday stirred hopes that interest rates were already headed for a downtrend, but the increase in the 20-year T-bond rate yesterday cast doubts on this.

Mendiola said the Treasury's auction committee allowed the rate for the 20-year T-bonds to increase to 12.875 percent because it was still a comfortable level for the government. He added that it would be unreasonable for the government to reject all of the bids.

A BSP official, who requested anonymity, earlier said the Treasury should not adopt the tendency to reject outright all bids for government securities just because the market was seeking higher interest rates. The official said the government's liquidity should also be given a major consideration in deciding whether to accept or reject bids.

Cocktales

From page B3

tested guardian of the sickly billionaire.

Lilia's alpha side

THE BATTLE to close down Cebu's "ukay-ukay" king has taken a bizarre twist, with no less than the femininity of Director General Lilia de Lima of the Philippine Export Zone Authority being the target of the offending firm.

Getting wind that the Peza board had ordered its closure for failure to account for a whopping 330 containers-load of used clothing, Pearl City Manufacturing Corp. had the chutzpah to write De Lima about Pearl City owners having "declined your request for monetary arrangement."

Worse, Pearl City plant manager Franklin Ty even issued an affidavit and released it to the Cebu press, quoting an alleged statement from another Peza employee—double hearsay, in lawyer's parlance—about De Lima's sexual orientation.

Instead of being cowed, a steaming De Lima fired off a letter reminding the Chinoy that in 1999, Pearl City had also sued De Lima and Peza after the agency recommended the cancellation of Pearl City's registration for "illegally bringing out" 102 bales of used clothing out of the Mactan zone.

According to the grapevine, the Pearl City Chinoys found a *padrino* during the Erap presidency that Peza instead reduced the penalty to monetary fine. But apparently not this time.

"Be advised that I will avail [myself] of all legal remedies to seek complete redress from your dastardly act of maligning my reputation," De Lima promised.

Containing container competition

THE APPOINTMENT of Oscar Sevilla, the GM of the Maritime Industry Authority who is being moved over to head the powerful Philippine Ports Authority, has been in a limbo pending the disposition of a number of complaints now with the Ombudsman.

On the other hand, Al Cusi, until recently the PPA general manager, has been transferred to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to root out personnel headaches as administrative head.

In the meantime, an officer in charge, Raul Santos, has been named to keep the PPA seat warm while Sevilla obtains, hopefully, a clearance from the Ombudsman.

Cusi is seen within the industry as favoring the grant of container cargo permit to Reghis Romero's Harbour Centre terminal, while Sevilla has made known his opposition to the application unless Harbour Centre first clear regulatory and tax hurdles.

Incidentally, granting Harbour Centre a permit to handle containerized cargo, a multibillion-peso and still growing business, would put it in direct competition with International Container Terminal Services of Enrique Razon Jr.

Heard through the grapevine

SEN. LOREN Legarda wants to make it perfectly clear that she and her husband Antonio Leviste lead separate lives insofar as Tony's business deals and Loren's political choices are concerned.

The ex-senator has a great quote about her relationship with the ex-governor; unfortunately, it is not for publication.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 3, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	31,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.5	17.75	9,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	1,138,800
China Banking Corp.	540	540	540	540	1,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	25.5	26	113,400
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	35,000
Security Bank Corp.	21	21.25	21	21.25	21,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2150	2150	2150	2150	700
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	48,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	110	110	110	110	100
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	19.75	20	14,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.65	1,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	870	875	865	870	52,090
Ipeople Inc.	1.48	1.54	1.48	1.54	34,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.039	400,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.18	2.2	2.14	2.2	12,897,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1250	1260	1245	1250	117,790
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.61	1,880,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	26,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.25	14.75	205,400
Manila Electric Co. B	21	22	20.75	21.5	4,575,900
Petron Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.7	6,038,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.16	1.08	1.12	1,290,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	36,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	330,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.76	966,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	29	29.5	40,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.5	176,900
RFM Corp.	0.91	0.92	0.9	0.9	160,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	880,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	93,600
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	5,700
Universal Robina Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.31	290,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	30,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	3,826,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.6	2	1.6	1.64	656,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.08	1.32	1.08	1.1	630,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	100
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.14	2,500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.51	7,310,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	80,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	30,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0675	0.0675	0.06	0.06	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.98	0.86	0.96	21,850,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	1,200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.5	23.75	22.25	23	1,880,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	1,600,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	154,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.62	1.74	1.6	1.6	2,131,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	1,455,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	6,550,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	47,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	90,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	100,000
South China Resources Inc	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	300,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.9	3	2.55	2.8	33,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.16	2,560,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	330,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	930,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	240,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	460,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	20	20	20	20	35,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	11	11	11	11	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	11	11	11	11	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	352,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.45	0.39	0.45	900,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	2,630,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	5,330,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1	0.99	0.99	420,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	400,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	70,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	800,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	7,030,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.05	3.05	2.95	2.95	152,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	535,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	205,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	36,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	120,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	137,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	17,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	580,000
Pacifica	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	4,300,000

DISCLOSURES

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 4, 10 a.m. at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 11 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PRIME Media Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 30, 9 a.m. at the First e-Bank Tower, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 20 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ABRA Mining & Industrial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 27, 8 a.m. at its main office in Barangay Lipcan, Bangued, Abra. Only stockholders of record as of July 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp.** were Jame Go, Robert Coyiuto Jr., John Gokongwei Jr., Lance Gokongwei, Amparo Barcelon, Patrick Henry Go, Perry Pe, Jaime Ledesma, Macario Te and Anthony Te.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. and Ginebra San Miguel Inc. will hold an investors' briefing and Aug. 5, 3:30 p.m. at the executive dining room, 2/F of San Miguel head office complex, Mandaluyong City.

* * *

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will hold an investors' and analysts' briefing on Aug. 10, 2 p.m. at the chronicle lounge, 14/F of ELJ Communications Center, Quezon City.

* * *

SADAO Maki was elected director of **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.** while Shigeru Yoshida was appointed advisor to the finance committee.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Gov't to review . . .

From page B1

number of incentives.

The economic team is also recommending that only one government body be tasked to administer all the fiscal incentives. The initial proposal was for the Board of Investments, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, to undertake this function.

The move to rationalize the fiscal incentives available in the country came in the wake of the worsening budget problems, which are feared to place the government in a fiscal crisis.

Government officials said some incentives have to be withdrawn because they did not necessarily boost local industries but only made them dependent on government support.

Government estimates showed that it lost P462 billion in potential revenues from 1999 to 2003 from the granting of various incentives. Fiscal incentives come either in the form of tax exemptions or duty-free importation privileges.

As part of moves to rationalize the incentives, the government is looking at shortening the six-year income tax holiday granted to firms registered with the BOI. The six-year income tax holiday is one of the perks granted by the BOI to encourage the entry of investors into the country.

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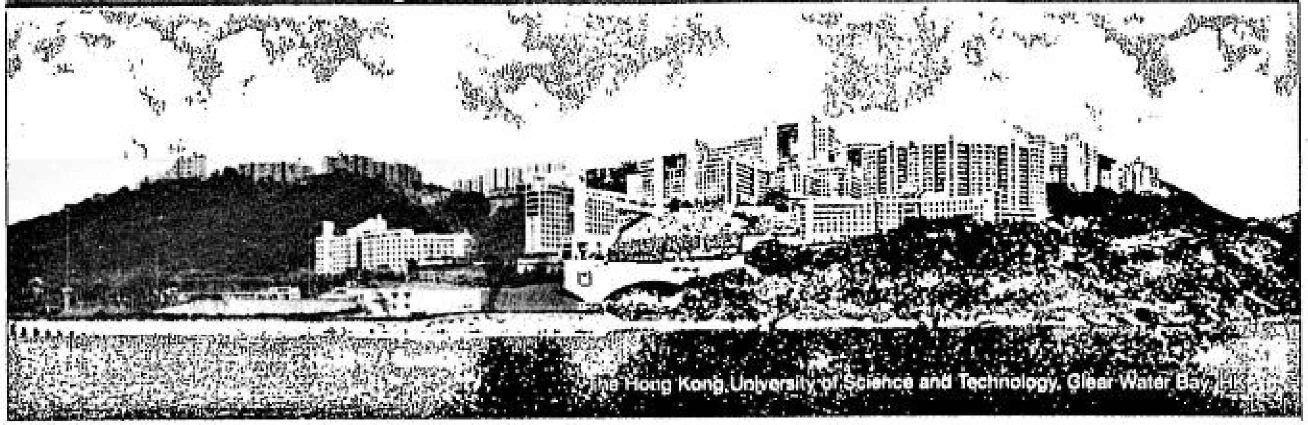
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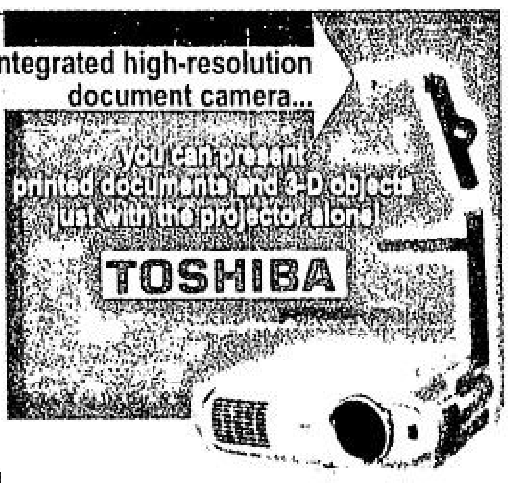
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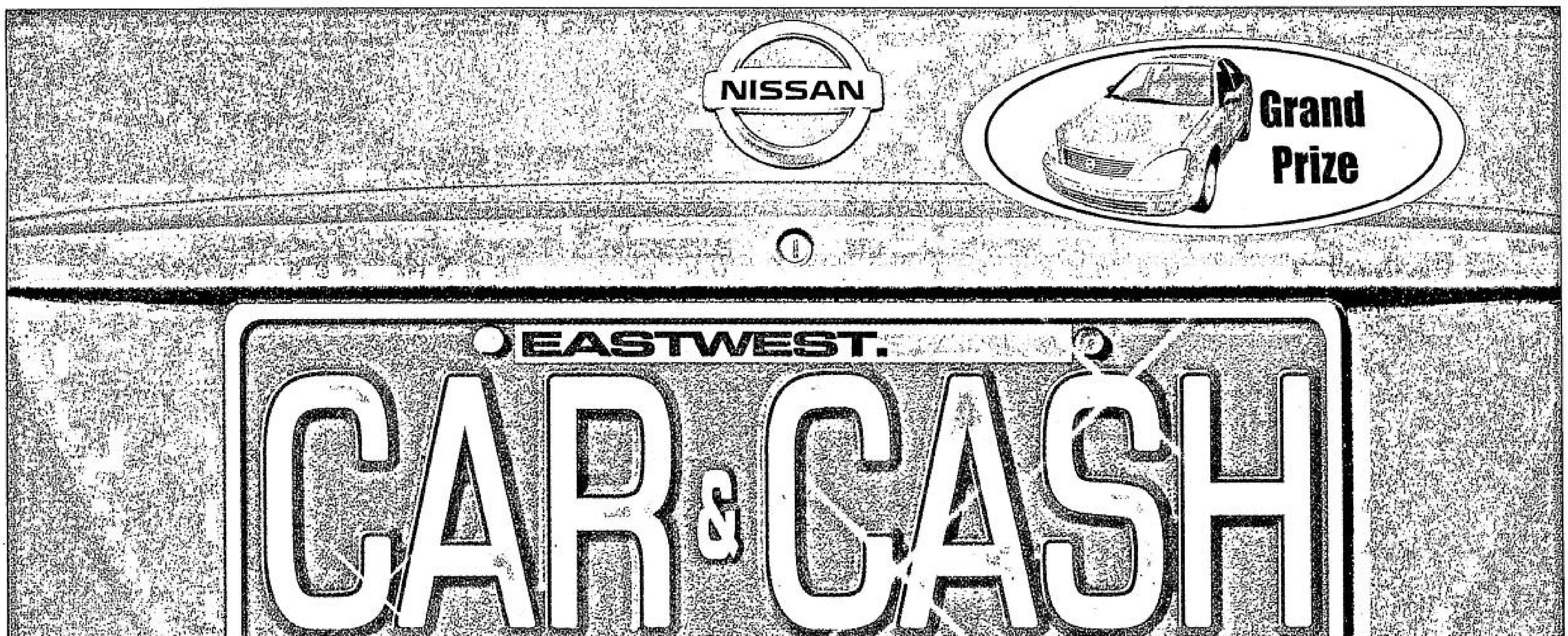

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4	DEAD PEOPLE
5	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
6	ELLA ENCHANTED
7	KING ARTHUR
8	CATWOMAN
9	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
10	ALONG CAME POLLY

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1	I, ROBOT
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3	CATWOMAN
4	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5	DEAD PEOPLE
6	GARFIELD
7	MAKAMUNDO

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1	I, ROBOT
2	IMELDA
3	CATWOMAN
4	ELLA ENCHANTED
5	MAKAMUNDO
6	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
7	GARFIELD
8	DEAD PEOPLE

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie
1	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
2	KING ARTHUR
3	ALONG CAME POLLY
4	I, ROBOT
5	CATWOMAN
6	GARFIELD
7	SPIDER-MAN 2
8	MAKAMUNDO

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1	I, ROBOT
2	GARFIELD
3	CATWOMAN
4	MAKAMUNDO

CAINTA
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Cinema	Movie
1	I, ROBOT
2	IMELDA
3	CATWOMAN
4	MAKAMUNDO

STA. ROSA
(049)837-0907

Cinema	Movie
1	I, ROBOT
2	IMELDA
3	ALONG CAME POLLY
4	PERLAS
5	CATWOMAN

LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

Cinema	Movie
1	CATWOMAN
2	KING ARTHUR
3	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4	ALONG CAME POLLY
5	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

DASMARIÑAS
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Cinema	Movie
1	THE EYE 2
2	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3	I, ROBOT
4	GARFIELD
5	CATWOMAN

STARMILLS
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Cinema	Movie
1	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2	ELLA ENCHANTED
3	KAINAN SA HIGHWAY
4	WEREWOLF
5	GARFIELD
6	CATWOMAN

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

Cinema	Movie
1	I, ROBOT
2	CATWOMAN
3	MAKAMUNDO
4	GARFIELD
5	CATWOMAN
6	WEREWOLF

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

Cinema	Movie
1	KING ARTHUR
2	ELLA ENCHANTED
3	CATWOMAN
4	LIBERATED 2
5	EVE
6	I, ROBOT

ILOILO
336-8070/78

Cinema	Movie
1	CATWOMAN
2	KING ARTHUR
3	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4	I, ROBOT
5	WEREWOLF
6	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

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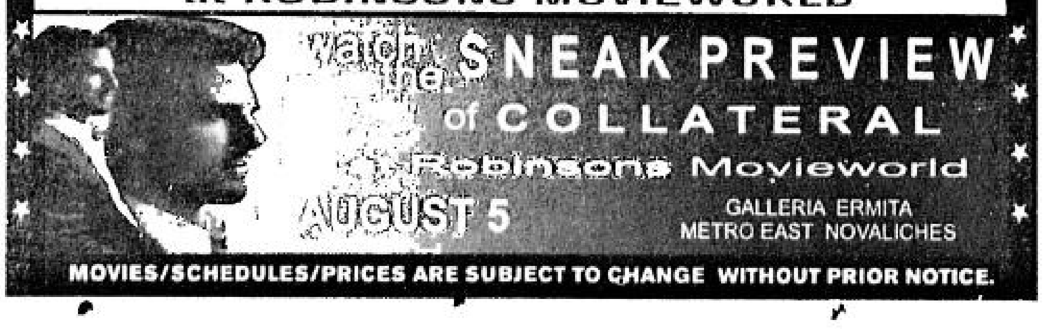

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SHANGRI-LA CINEPLEX

Wednesday August 4, 2004

Cinema	Movie
1	GARFIELD
2	I, ROBOT
3	CATWOMAN
4	
PREMIERE THEATRE	IMELDA FS : 11:30 pm, 1:55 pm, 4:20 pm, 6:45 pm LMF : 9:10 pm

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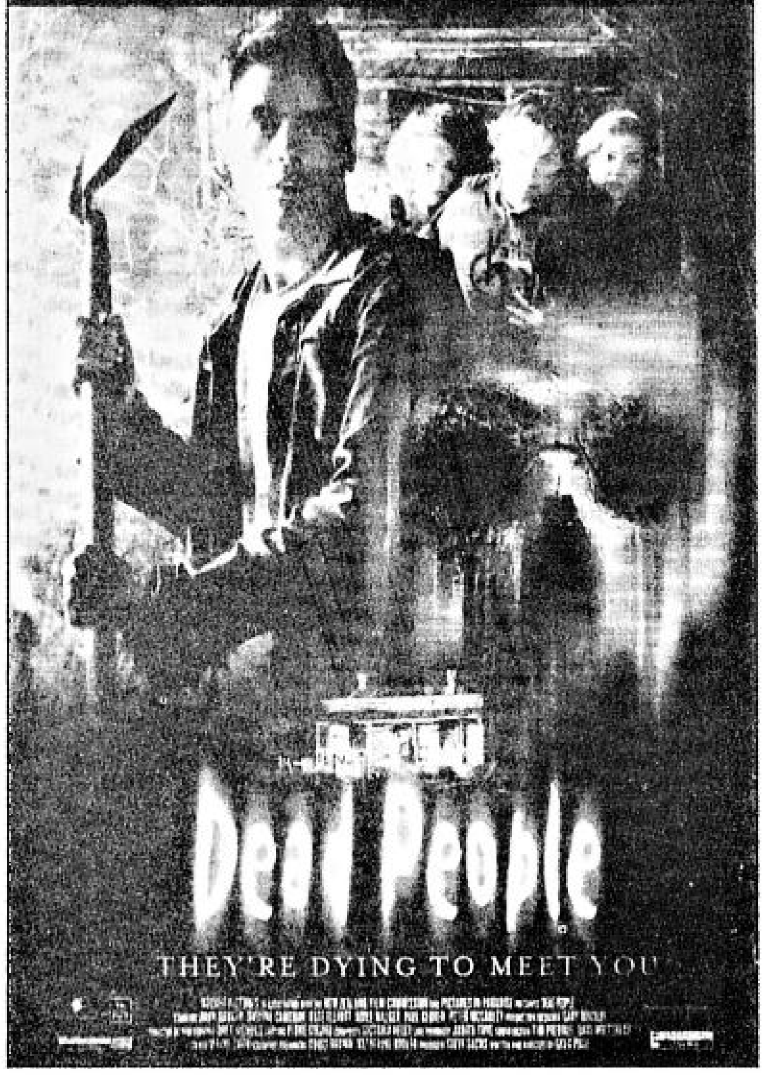
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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	CATWOMAN	11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:05	GP
2	CATWOMAN	12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30	GP
3	GARFIELD	11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 7:45, 10:00	GP
4	I, ROBOT	11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20	PG-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movie	Rating	Times
ELLA ENCHANTED	GP	12:00,1:50,3:50,5:50,7:50,9:50
I, ROBOT	PG13	12:10,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
GARFIELD	GP	12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00,10:00
ETERNAL SUNSHINE	R13	11:50,1:50,3:55,6:00,8:10,10:20
IMELDA	GP	12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:40
CATWOMAN	GP	12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10

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- Catwoman
- I Robot

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Tel. No. 873.50.04
- Catwoman
- Warewolf 2

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NOW SHOWING

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CINEMA 1	CATWOMAN	10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10	GP
CINEMA 2	GARFIELD	11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00	GP

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Dates	Show	Time
AUG 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 & 31	NOAH'S BIG BOAT	10AM & 2PM
AUG 13-14, 20-21 & 27-28	NYOY VOLANTE & NINA	9:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Volvo holds Child Safety Seminar

WITH the increasing number of road accidents that also involve children, Volvo is more aware of its responsibility and role as a carmaker to make sure kids travel safely. As an automaker with a strong sense of social responsibility and outstanding safety performance, Volvo Car Corp is organizing the first child safety seminar in the Philippines on Aug. 5 and 7 to be held at the Volvo Makati Showroom.

Experts on child safety from Volvo Cars will brief Filipino media representatives and parents on the latest knowledge and concepts about safety, which aims to add new dimensions to the vehicle safety domain and boost safety awareness among Filipino drivers. Volvo Cars has sponsored the event to attract more people to pay attention to automotive safety. This is because in addition to the advanced safety features onboard a car, the safety awareness of its driver and occupants is also of primary importance in order to keep them safe in a traffic accident.

Children, as opposed to adults, cannot judge what safety measures they should use to avoid getting injured. This is the task for adults-the parents and others driving cars with children as passengers.

In Manila, Viking Cars Inc is the official distributor of Volvo cars. For details and inquiries, call 893-6621 to 22 (Makati Showroom) or 637-0414 to 15 (Ortigas Showroom) or log on to www.volvochildsafety.com.

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Sound	Movie	Times
3	Dolby	GARFIELD	10 15 am 12 25 pm 2:35 pm 4 45 pm 6 55 pm 9:05 pm
4	SDDS	I, ROBOT	11 15 pm 1:40 pm 4:05 pm 6:30 pm 8 55 pm
5	dts	CATWOMAN	12 00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6 45 pm 9 00 pm
6	Dolby	DEAD PEOPLE	11.35 am 1.55 pm 4.15 pm 6.35 pm 8 55 pm
7	Dolby	ETERNAL SUNSHINE	11 35 am 1 55 pm 4 15 pm 6 35 pm 8 55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Aug 6	GARY V CONCERT
Aug 7	UAAP: La Salle vs. U E
Aug 8	UAAP: F E U vs. Ateneo
Aug 12	UAAP Game- 2nd ROUND
Aug 13	NIGHT OF THE CHAMPIONS: THE REPEAT
Aug 14	UAAP Game- 2nd ROUND
Aug 15	CCF WORSHIP SERVICE

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

Theater	Movie
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

Theater	Movie
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MAKAMUNDO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

Theater	Movie
A	MAKAMUNDO
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

Theater	Movie
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, & 3	GARFIELD / I ROBOT / CATWOMAN
PREMIERE THEATRE	IMELDA

CAINTA RIZAL

Theater	Movie
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GHOST HOUSE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-2	PERLAS
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCE & ME
CINEMA-6	KILL BILL VOL. 2
CINEMA-7	WEREWOLF
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-12	KING ARTHUR
CINEMA-14	ALONG CAME POLLY
CINEMA-15	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

LORES

Theater	Movie
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

Theater	Movie
(LAS PIÑAS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-1	LADY KILLERS
CINEMA-2	I ROBOT
CINEMA-4	RESERVED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

Theater	Movie
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Wofex opens today

THE MOST anticipated food show in the country today, World's Food Expo 2004, more popularly known as Wofex, opens today at the World Trade Center with Senators Mar Roxas and Jamby Madrigal cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Assisting them is guest artist Janice de Belen with chairs of the expo's supporting organizations Pampi, HRCAP, FCAP, Pag-Asa, Fil-Chai, Pasi, Philfoodex, Infomapp, and PBL, among others.

Wofex is a yearly event that brings together all the latest and many different types of food, beverages, and other related products from around the world. The country remains to be a potent consumer market for food and beverage products with a fast-growing consumer base of already 80 million people.

This year's Wofex will also feature co-located events like the Taste Expo, which is a series of culinary competitions and demonstrations in celebration of culinary artistry; the Baker's Fair, an exhibition of confectioneries, ingredients, bakery products, equipment, supplies and technologies; the World Food Summit, which conducts seminars and workshops in the food and beverage industry, the Foodmach 2004 Expo, which supplies solutions exposition on packaging, handling, manufacturing, food service equipment and machinery, and the Exporters Supermarket, which is a showcase of the best Filipino food and beverage products for the export market.

Major competitions will take place during the four-day event from Aug. 4 to 7 such as the "No Boundaries Salad" competition by Unilever Foodsolutions, Coldkitchen Fest Creative Sandwiches Assembly Competition by San Miguel Greatfoods Solutions and Frenchbaker, and the Master Flairtending and Grand Cocktail Competition by the Philippine Bartenders League. Free seminars will also be conducted on the latest in the food and beverage industries, among many others.

Wofex 2004 offers an excellent opportunity to see the big names of the food industry and at the same time get a broader view of all the latest products and services in the market today.

The Philippines' best international food show just keeps on getting bigger and better. So, if you're in the market for a new business idea or opportunity, why not check out Wofex and have a taste of the ultimate food show experience.

For more information, log on to www.wofex.com or call Premier Events Plus Group Inc at 426-9603, 436-4898, and 929-7963 or 93.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
WILL SMITH
I, ROBOT
THREE LAWS PROTECT US FROM THEM..
BUT LAWS ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN.
NOW SHOWING

Silent Movie Festival at SM Cinema

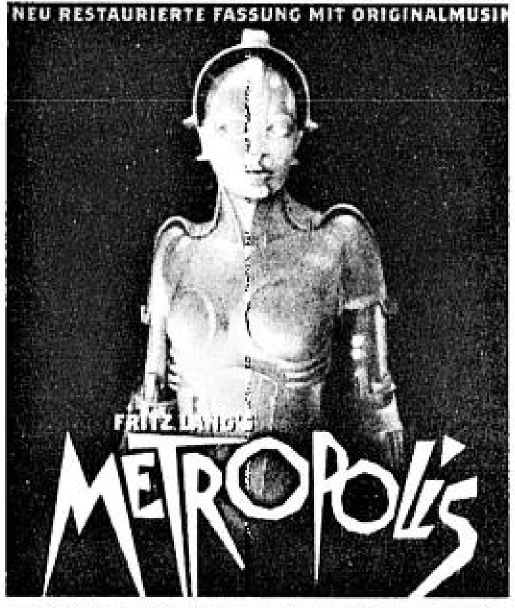
MOVIE enthusiasts will have the rare chance to watch classic German silent movies with live scoring by some of the country's outstanding contemporary acts in "Movies Live", a joint project of Goethe-Institut Manila, The Podium, and SM Cinema. This German Silent Movie Festival is also in cooperation with Smart Communications, Jam 88.3 and Wave 89.1.

This film festival will feature digitally restored silent movie gems from 1922 to 1927 by two of Germany's critically acclaimed filmmakers: Fritz Lang with "Metropolis", and FW Murmau's "Faust," "Last Laugh" and "Nosferatu".

The festival unreels at The Podium today, Aug. 4 with a screening of excerpts from all four films. Full screenings will be held at the SM Megamall Cinema 6 on all Thursdays of the month at 8 p.m.-Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Admission is free and on a first-come-first-served basis.

The 1927 film classic "Metropolis" will be screened on Aug. 5 and will be accompanied by the music of the world-class electronics duo Rubber Inc.

Perhaps the most famous and influential of all silent films, "Metropolis" was produced at a time of economic depression and is believed to be the crowning achievement of German silent cinema. Considered to be the first science-fiction film, it was called a "feverish dream of the future" by the New York Times.

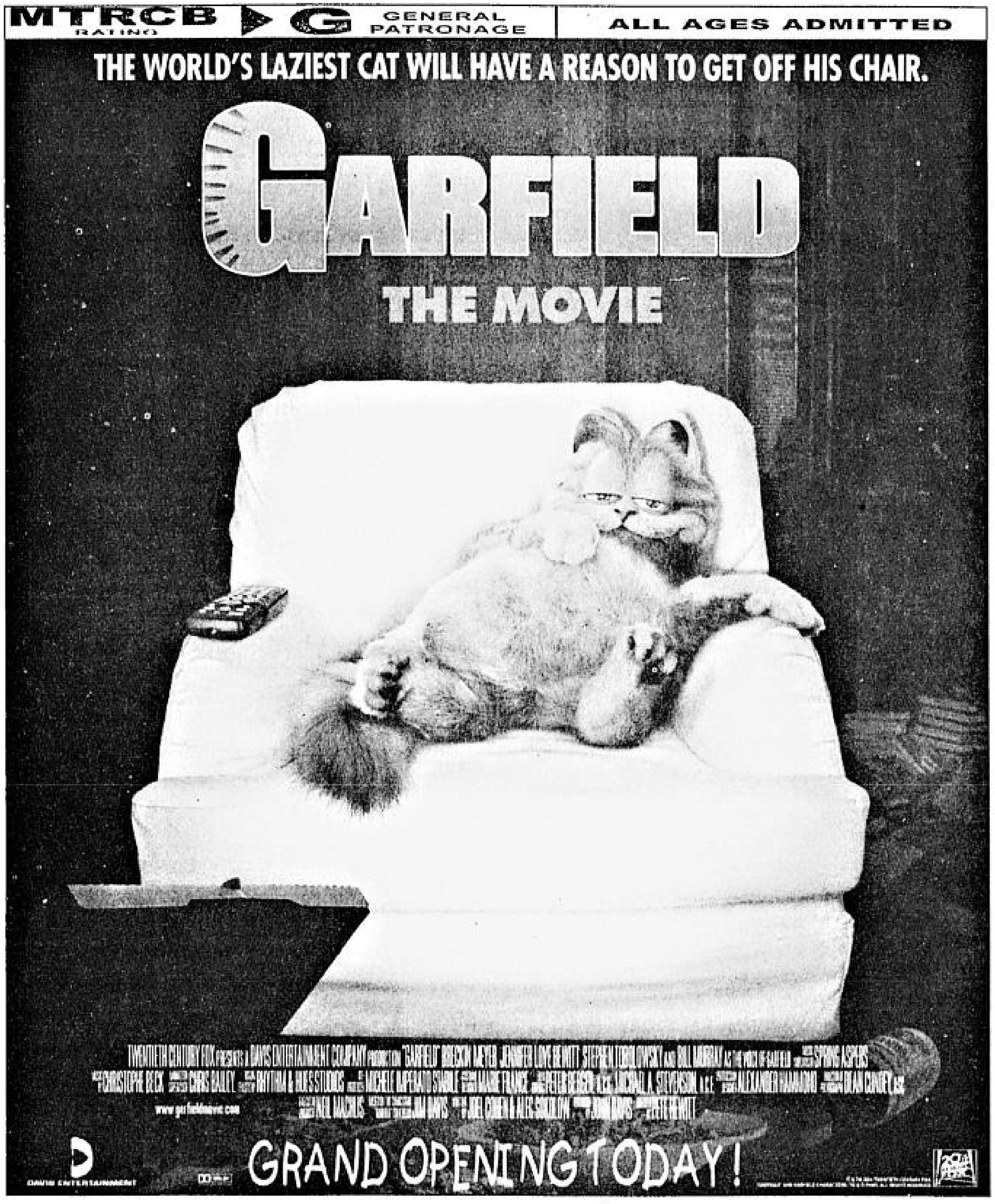

NEU RESTAURIERTE FASSUNG MIT ORIGINALMUSI
FRITZ LANG'S
METROPOLIS

FRITZ Lang's 'Metropolis' will be accompanied by electronica duo Rubber Inc on Aug.5

The festival continues with "Faust" (1926) with live scoring by the country's premiere saxophonist Tots Tolentino and Friends on Aug. 12.

Murnau's film expresses his own fantastic vision of the struggle between good and evil. This lavish studio production, which features an unforgettable performance of Emil Jannings as Mephistopheles, was Murnau's last film in Germany before he went to Hollywood.

Not to be missed is "The Last Laugh" (1924), which will be accompanied by avant-garde rock-jazz fusion group Syzgy on Aug. 19. Capping the festival is the unparalleled horror masterpiece Nosferatu (1922), with live scoring by experimental jazz-progressive rock trio Garlic on Aug. 26.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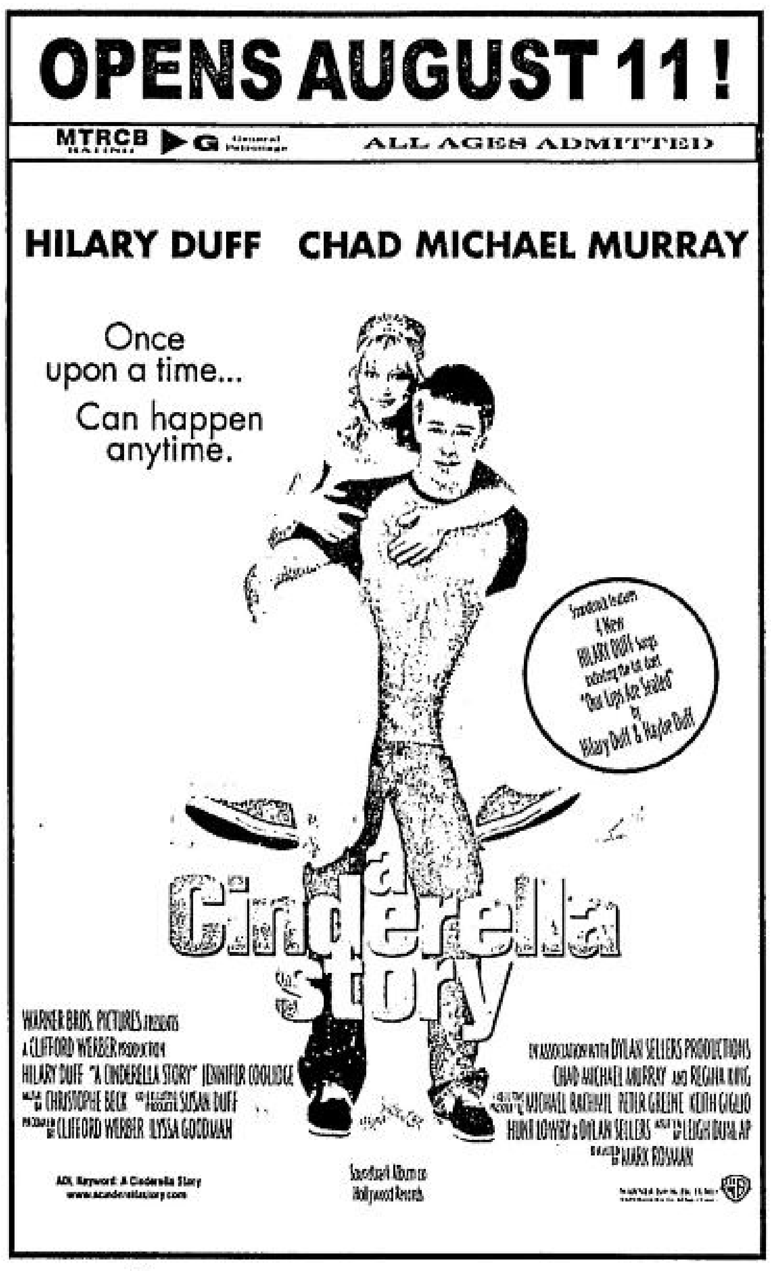
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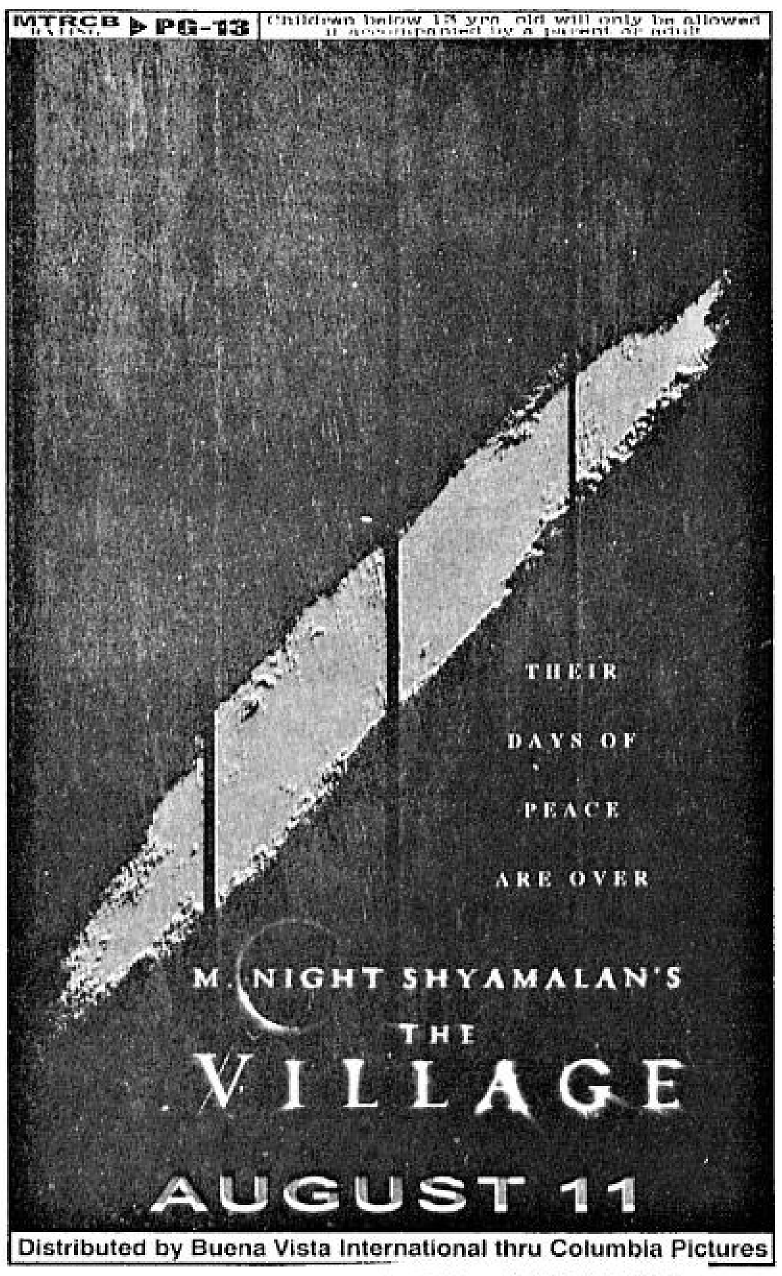
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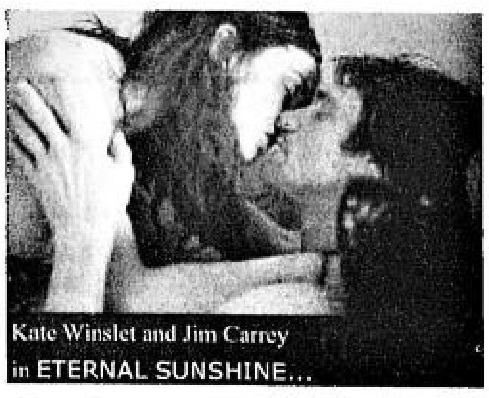

Kate Winslet and Jim Carrey in ETERNAL SUNSHINE...

Head Over Heels in Love

An Empty Memory Is No Match for a Full Heart In 'Eternal Sunshine Of the Spotless Mind'

By Ann Hornaday
Washington Post Staff Writer

"Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" is a rabbit hole of a movie, inviting viewers on a dizzying plunge through love, loss and, finally, consciousness itself.

The story of an everyman named Joel Barish (Jim Carrey) who falls in and out of love with a willful free spirit named Clementine Kruczynski (Kate Winslet) and then undergoes a procedure to forget her, the movie would seem to be about two people who connect, break up and try to find their way back to one another. But it's also about every synaptic fuse and hiccup that make romance — and self-deception and hope and heartbreak possible. Ingenious, exhilarating, funny and profound, "Eternal Sunshine" arrives as a well-timed summer breeze to blow away the detritus of a surpassingly dull year. Written by multi-awarded Charlie Kaufman , the film bears his signature stamp of whacked-out humor combined with an erudite interest in philosophy, neuroscience and the plasticity of desire (the title is taken from a poem by Alexander Pope). And where he's always had a deeply humanist bent — his scripts are clever, but never at the expense of his characters — this might be Kaufman's warmest movie yet. It's certainly his most out-and-out romantic, as he explores not only Joel and Clementine's relationship but how they construct that relationship in their own minds and memories.

Here, Joel and Clementine meet and embark on a year-long affair; when they go through an ugly breakup, Clementine hires a firm called Lacuna to erase her memories of Joel. The white-coated memory doctor (Tom Wilkinson) and his young, slightly gonzo staff (Kirsten Dunst of Spiderman and Elijah Wood of Hobbit fame) ply their trade by having clients bring in every memento that reminds them of the soon-to-be-forgotten. The patients are then hooked up to a computer and systematically purged of every offending memory while they sleep. Outrageous, sure, but the surrealism is propelled by such a feeling of spontaneity that viewers can easily believe, as Joel suggests in a prologue, that it all happened just last month (Valentine's Day 2004, to be exact).

When Joel finds out that he's been erased, he's miffed, and decides to do the same to Clementine. Much of the film transpires while he's undergoing the procedure, a journey through ever-opening doors of perception that Joel experiences as if in a waking dream. Joel's backward reconstruction of his relationship with Clem — and his last-ditch efforts to keep some memories before she's lost and gone forever — is indescribably complex, and director Michel Gondry choreographs it with confidence and superb control. A former music video director who directed Kaufman's overlooked "Human Nature" (another romance with philosophic and scientific preoccupations), Gondry has decided to leave behind the computer-generated images that have seduced so many of his peers. Mostly he dramatizes Joel's head trip using sound design, staging and low-tech visual effects (in one of the film's most powerful scenes, Joel enters another realm of consciousness, a transition represented by the lights behind him going off, one by one). The results, in their intricate detail and execution, are nothing short of brilliant, from the book spines going blank in the background of one of Joel's rapidly degrading memories to the film's emotionally devastating set piece in which a beach house crumbles and fills with sand while Joel and Clementine face a pivotal choice. Working with cinematographer Ellen Kuras, production designer Dan Leigh and editor Valdis Oskarsdottir, Gondry follows Joel's hopscotch through his own mind with the seamless fluidity the material demands. As densely layered and intuitively constructed as the plot is, viewers are never unsure of where they stand, even when time swoops, circles and folds in on itself (Clementine's ever-changing hair color also helps).

What's more, Gondry has elicited formidable performances from his two lead players, each of whom has been cast against type in a difficult role. Even when forced to wear costumes and wigs that make her look like Pippi Longstocking after an acid-fueled trip to the thrift market, Winslet maintains a reassuring equilibrium. It takes an actor of her steadiness to play someone this unhinged. "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" would turn out to be the perfect movie about love's inevitable imperfections.

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L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

LIPAT BAHAY 7807889/7130678

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

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HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

Las Pinas Philam 8M LA 416 Sqm 2Sty 5 Big BR 5T&B 3CG Owner Leaving Jerry 8742629

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 890341 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PASIG

Pasig H&L 3br 3tb RFO 1.9M Terms Inhse 09196782123

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MANILA

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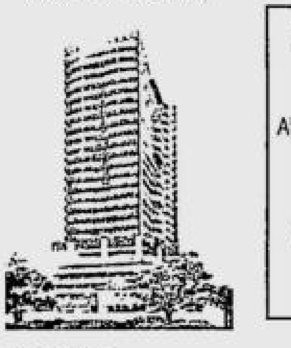

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QUEZON CITY

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136 SCT. LOZANO
5BR5TB 9210255 9219967

81Mahiyain Teacher's Vill. 5BR5TB 9210255 ; 9219967

NR EASTWOOD LIBIS
5BR 4TB LA400 FA320 famly rm corner 12M nego 9120312

P499T/Unit Sunny Villas Condo nr Cmnwealth 30/60M² P4730/mo 8179650/9750-09192302120

OTHER AREAS

Tagaytay Canyon Woods FF fa234 la884 15M neg DBO Bnew cleantitle 0927-2698179

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

CONDO UNITS RFO!
NR D'Fort & Mkti, 10% Move In 2BR 16K/mon. 0918-9384927

MANILA

CONDO UNITS FOR SALE In front of La Salle Taft Call 8904416/09212236333

Singalong Manila BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/maid's rm1-2grge P3.960M up 8903461 loc. 34

PASIG

MALAYAN PLAZA ORTIGAS
STUDIO/1BR/2BR/3BR
CALL OFC HRS. 631-3296

QUEZON CITY

Eastwood City 634-1212

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

CAVITE

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.5M 5YRS TO PAY No Interest Move-In 9126976

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Sta. Rosa 3BR Thse FA110 Amor 9114071/266 or 9124724

LOT

MAKATI

870sqm W/improvements Call Heidi 8972466/8955532

Mc Kinley Hills 634-1212

Samp P.Campa nr. UST 600m² VLot 721-3127 • 712-1127 Te

PARANAQUE

Sucat 240m² 715-8833 Emy

QUEZON CITY

Greenmeadows 634-1212

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OTHER AREAS

Nr. Masinag Market along Sumulong 1 Hec Comm'l At 20T/m2 6337601/03

CAVITE

KAWIT 349m² 286m² 8424213

LAGUNA

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m² 9289541 / 7361925

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

Bung 3BR 2TB 1car grge 12T #9 K9 St Kamias 644-9030

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Condo Unit Wd 2Rms P5T/Rm Call 8931597 Off Hrs Text 09178412778 Amy

SANLO DUPLEX 526-8048

MANILA

CONDO/APT 5636296/5610197

MANDALUYONG

PIONEER 1BR SFurn 4121825

PARANAQUE

WESTMONT-Sucat 1BR+Prkg front Clubhse •0927-2107234•

VARIED AREAS

Bay Gardens RBlvd 1-3br F Prince Plaza Gbelt Std Antel Platinum 1br FF @25K •0916-2824573

APARTMENT

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

ROOM & BOARD

120 MLA 7118679/4112311

180 MLA 4112311;4113301

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Sucat Pque 8257524/24hrs

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CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

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CARS

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HONDA

00 CRV A/T 09275612424 No Txt

MITSUBISHI

RUSH SALE LANCER GLXI SPORTY LOOK Flooded 2727813

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'02 SERENA 1st Own P850T 12900mileage 0920-9112910

Nissan Patrol 2002 White A/T • 0917-4061980•

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

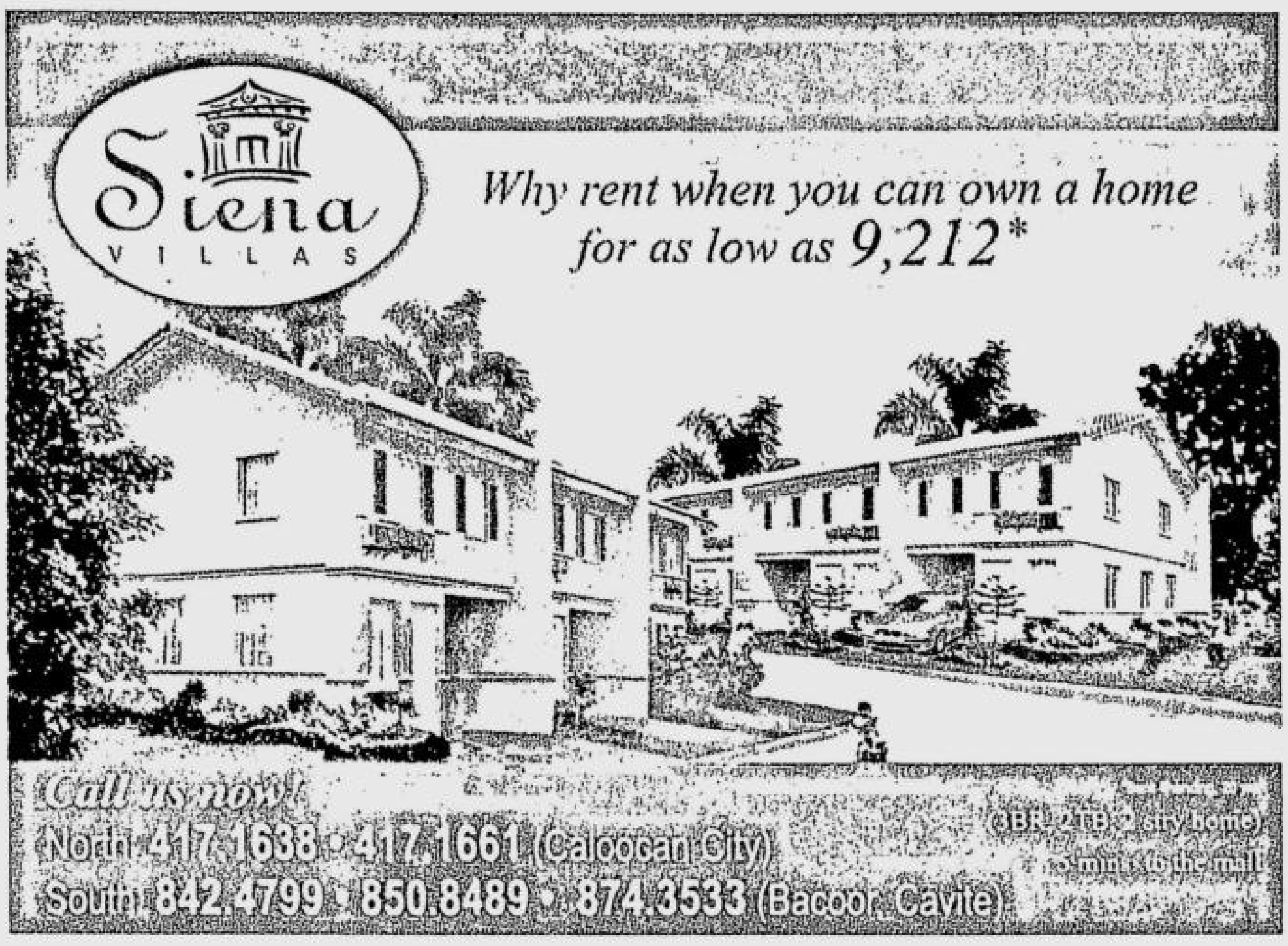
HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS



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Tiptronic Sedan 21000
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CARS FOR RENT

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CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

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NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUC PLAN Gie 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control Ur Weight 09178273404

SLIMMING PROGRAM 5221138

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- Fluent in English, both in speaking and writing
- Male Female
- Flexible and willing to work in shifts and during holidays
- Can work with minimum supervision

Interested applicants may email their CV or Resume in MS Word format and send it to [illegible] on or before August 18 2004

Republic of the Philippines - Department of Labor
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
Technical Education and Skills Development Project
TESDA Complex, Fort Bonifacio, East Service Road
South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR BIDS

July 28, 2004
ADB Loan No. 1750-PHI
OPEC Loan No. 841 P

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-financed with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the **Contract for Completion of the Center of Technical Excellence (CenTex) of Kabasalan National Vocational School located at Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay**.
2. Bidding is open to all bidders from source countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
3. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Completion of the CenTex ("the Works") in the aforesaid institution.
4. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, **beginning July 30, 2004 at the Office of the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC), between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday at the TESDA Regional Office IX, San Roque, Zamboanga City with Telephone/Facsimile No.: (62) 991-3229.**
5. A complete set of bidding documents per CenTex may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the concerned office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P 2,000.00) per bid document at the Regional Cashier's Office.
6. The RBACs shall conduct their respective **Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. of August 16, 2004**, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a security of 1.00% of the total bid price, and must be delivered at the concerned **Office of the RBAC at or before 10:00 a.m. on August 30, 2004.** Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

(Sgd.) **ALCESTIS M. GUIANG**
Director General

(PDI--July 29 & Aug. 4, 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Aug. 11, 2004 Wed. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, Mar. 9 - Apr. 11, 2004 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer. (PDI - Aug. 4, 2004)

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City.
AUCTION SALE on **Aug. 11, 2004,** Wed. at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, respectively Mar. 09 - Apr. 11, 2004.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer (PDI - Aug. 4, 2004)

NATION Pawnshop, Inc.
Pob. Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of Feb. '04 on Aug. 23, '04 10am - *Lanuza & Sons*
(PDI - August 4, 2004)

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LOOSE WEIGHT BFAD reg GLO-09175326486

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Need Xtra Income P/F Time 7126374

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me and show herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands (3x). Sweet Mother, I place this course in Your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems so that I can attain my goal, You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want this short prayer. Thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for Your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TESDA

Invitation for Prequalification

Dear Sir/Madam:

Subject : **Pre-qualification for the SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING OF VARIOUS TEACHING AND TESTING EQUIPMENT for Technical Education and Skills Development Project of the Republic of the Philippines.**

The Republic of the Philippines represented by the Department of Finance has received a credit from Nordic Development Fund (NDF) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING OF VARIOUS TEACHING AND TESTING EQUIPMENT. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority intends to pre-qualify contractors and/or suppliers for SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, DELIVERY, TESTING, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING OF VARIOUS TEACHING AND TESTING EQUIPMENT.

It is expected that invitations to bid will be issued on September 2004.

Pre-qualification will be conducted through pre-qualification procedures specified in Rules and Guidelines for Procurement and is open to all registered firms or joint ventures of a Nordic country. In this connection, it is a requirement that 60% of the works/goods are of Nordic origin. For eligibility of goods and works, registered companies in the Borrower's country with a Nordic majority ownership interest are considered Nordic origin.

A complete set of the pre-qualification documents including:
- Instructions to Applicants
- Brief on the Project and the works or goods to be procured
- Criteria for pre-qualification
- Forms of application

is enclosed.

The Application for pre-qualification comprises the Letter of Application and Pre-qualification Forms 1 through 8. These documents, together with a profile of the applicant, and annual reports for the past five years, shall be submitted in one (1) original copy and two (2) certified true copies.

Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "Application to Pre-qualify for Technical Education and Skills Development Project for SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING OF VARIOUS TEACHING AND TESTING EQUIPMENT and delivered to the address below before August 30, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TESDA Compound
East Service Road, South Superhighway
Taguig, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Attention : The Bids and Awards Committee Chairman
Telephone : (63 2) 818-8829
Facsimile : (63 2) 893-2454
E-mail : www.tesda.gov.ph

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) **ALCESTIS M. GUIANG**
Project Director, TESDP
Director General, TESDA

(PDI–July 29 & Aug. 4, 2004)

TESDA

Republic of the Philippines o Department of Labor
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Super Highway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

ADB-CW-IFP-02

Date of Advertisement
OPEC Loan No. 841P

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan for International Development from OPEC Fund towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for ELECTRICAL REHABILITATION OF NITVET FACILITIES.
2. The Project is jointly financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), OPEC Fund for International Development, NORDIC Development Fund and the DANIDA Mixed Credit. The eligibility rules and procedures of ADB will govern the pre-qualification and the bidding process.
3. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (hereinafter referred to as the "Employer") intends to pre-qualify firms for the ELECTRICAL REHABILITATION OF NITVET FACILITIES.
4. It is expected that the Invitation for Bids will be made for sometime **October, 2004.**
5. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from the TESDA and inspect the Pre-qualification Document at the address given below, during government working days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning **August 2, 2004.**
6. The Pre-qualification Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested applicants on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) either in certified bank check or cash. The official receipt to be issued by the TESDA cashier with office at 3rd Floor, TESDA Administrative Building, TESDA Compound, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila shall serve as proof of payment and will be shown to the Procurement and Supply Division (PSD) to pick-up the Pre-qualification Document.
7. Applications must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 noon of **September 3, 2004.** The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
8. The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their applications.
9. The Employer will notify all applicants in writing of the names of those applicants who have been pre-qualified.
10. The address of the Project Management Office (PMO) is:

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TESDA Compound, TESDP Project Management Office
Ground Floor, PEVOTI Building
East Service Road, South Superhighway,
Taguig, Metro Manila
PHILIPPINES
Contact Person : Director Imelda B. Taganas, Project Manager
Telephone : (63 2) 8885647
Facsimile : (63 2) 8938306
E-mail : ibtaganas@tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ALCESTIS M. GUIANG**
Director General

(PDI - July 29 & Aug. 4, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
AMD-CP-193	No. 3292 Zapote St., Makati City	294 m² residential lot with bldg. & imp. (TCT No. T-164764)	P 6,762,000.00
AMD-PY-194	ARA Townhomes, Xavierville Subd., Phase I, Loyola Heights, Quezon City	106 m² residential lot with bldg. & imp. (TCT No. N-2554487)	P 2,663,400.00
AMD-MC-195a	Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas	436 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. 262159)	P 610,400.00
AMD-MC-195b	Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas	242 m² residential lot with bldg. & imp. (TCT No. 262158)	P 358,610.00
CWB-6a	Tugatog St., (696 C. Molina St.), Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City	1,000 m² residential/industrial lot (Lot 359-B/TCT No. V-57731) with bldg. & imp.	P 3,300,000.00
CWB-6b	Tugatog St., (C. Molina St.), Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City	375 m² residential/industrial lot (Lot 359-C-1/TCT No. V-57732) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,600,000.00
BATAAN			
AMD-CP-196	Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis Camaya, Mariveles	3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 229487-229489) 150m² with bldg. & imp.	P 427,200.00
BATANGAS			
LIP-09	Ayala Highway, Brgy. Balintawak North, Lipa City	2 parcels of adjoining vacant commercial/residential lots (TCT Nos. T-108495 & T-108496) total area of 3,165 m²	P36,397,500.00
		Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AMD-EL-197	Transville Homes Subd., Banay-Banay, Lipa City	70 m² TCT-141656 (Lot 23 Blk. 13)	P 233,300.00
AMD-MC-198		40 m² TCT-141657 (Lot 3 Blk. 13)	P 145,300.00
BULACAN			
AMD-MC-199	Lot 18 Blk. 1 Grotto Ville Homes, San Jose Del Monte	43 m² residential lot with bldg. & imp. (TCT No. 418450)	P 172,600.00
CAVITE			
	Corner Seoul and Sicily Sts., Pallas Athena Exec. Subd., Phase II, Anabu, Imus	Vacant residential lots:	
AMD-MC-200a	Lot – 1 Blk. – 22	180 m² TCT No. T-917917	P 504,000.00
AMD-MC-200b	2 22	150 m² TCT No. T-917918	P 384,000.00
AMD-ML-201	Lot 7 Blk. 3, Brgy. Luciano, Trece Martires City	75 m² residential lot with bldg. and imp. (TCT No. 68320)	P 286,300.00
DAVAO			
JTG-001	Margarita Rd., Margarita Village, Bajada, Davao City	2,000 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347769)	P 4,400,000.00
JTG-002	Ruby cor. Coral Sts., Marfori Heights Subd., Davao City	530 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347766)	P 2,157,100.00
JTG-003	Coral St., Marfori Heights Subd., Davao City	500 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347767)	P 2,000,000.00
LAGUNA			
AMD-EL-202	Lot 30 Blk. 5, St. Joseph Village 6, Butong, Cabuyao	40 m² residential lot with bldg. & imp. (TCT No. 545610)	P 196,500.00
NUEVA ECIJA			
	Magno Subd., Bo. Sto. Cristo, San Isidro	Vacant residential/subdivision lots:	
AMD-MC-203a	Lot No. 1213-B-5	300 m² TCT No. NT-291873	P 150,000.00
AMD-MC-203b	1213-B-6	300 m² TCT No. NT-291874	P 150,000.00
AMD-MC-203c	1213-B-7	300 m² TCT No. NT-291875	P 150,000.00
AMD-MC-203d	1213-B-11	300 m² TCT No. NT-291876	P 150,000.00
AMD-MC-203e	1213-B-13	300 m² TCT No. NT-291877	P 150,000.00
AMD-MC-203f	1213-B-16	300 m² TCT No. NT-291878	P 150,000.00
AMD-MC-203g	1213-B-18	300 m² TCT No. NT-291879	P 150,000.00
AMD-MC-203h	1213-B-19	300 m² TCT No. NT-291880	P 150,000.00
	Bo. Sto. Cristo, San Isidro	Vacant agricultural lots:	
AMD-MC-203i	Lot No. 1083-E	2,599 m² TCT No. NT-291871	P 1,299,500.00
AMD-MC-203j	1085	4,505 m² TCT No. NT-291872	P 2,252,500.00
QUEZON			
AMD-PY-206	Brgy. Poblacion, Real	400 m² commercial lot with bldg. and imp. (TCT No. T-25948) 400m²	P 2,556,600.00
AMD-MC-207	Brgy. Sampaloc 1, Sariaya	10,000 m² agricultural lot (TCT T-367896)	P 880,000.00
RIZAL			
AMD-CP-204	Roseville Subd., Brgy. San Juan Taytay	222 parcels of residential lots (total area of 15,000 m²) with 55 housing models	P30,500,800.00
AMD-CP-205	Brgy. Quisao, Pililia	2 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. M-100249 & M-10050) total area of 28,720 m² with imp.	P 2,969,500.00
	Bo. Colaigue, Antipolo City	Vacant residential lots:	
BLGA-1	Lot – 2 Blk. – 2	1,236 m² TCT No. R-3760	P 6,798,000.00
BLGA-2	4 4	1,057 m² TCT No. R-3761	P 6,447,700.00
BLGA-3	Lot 52 Blk. 3, Brgy. Muzon Angono	308 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 663764)	P 1,540,000.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AMD-EL-208a	TMEC Compound, Diversion Rd., Brgy. Alangilan, Batangas City	One (1) complete set of Slab and Tile Processing Line, ZONATO, made in Italy	P14,152,000.00
AMD-EL-208b		Multiblade Frame Saw, Model Diamond BM 80 Super (80 blades) and Single Blade Frame Saw, Model BM Super	P 5,758,000.00
AMD-EL-208c		Water treatment facilities consisting of one (1) complete set of Waste Water Treatment plant, 2,500 liters/minute and one (1) complete set of Sludge Dehydration Plant	P 2,213,100.00
AMD-EL-208d		One (1) unit Granty Crane, OFF, FAEDO, CI AMP (Vicenza), made in Italy, 25 tons capacity	P 1,615,400.00
AMD-EL-208f		One (1) Unit Overhead Crane, FAEDO, Italy, Model CP/8, 5 tons capacity	P 503,600.00
AMD-PY-209a	Brgy. Ilog, Infanta, Quezon	One (1) Rock Crushing Plant equipment 100 tons capacity	P 7,500,000.00
AMD-PY-209b	Brgy. Ilog, Infanta, Quezon	One (1) unit Power Generator 375 KVA, Caterpillar	P 750,000.00
AMD-EL-210	Lot 6 Blk 3, Sterling Technopark, Maguyam Silang, Cavite	One (1) lot various machinery and equipment consisting of 2-washer/extractor, Girbau Model; 2-Tumble Dryer, Unimac and 1-air-conditioning unit, Carrier, package type with condensing unit	P 1,199,400.00
AMD-ML-211a	Warehouse No. 1, La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	One (1) unit Boltformer type machine	P 667,100.00
AMD-ML-211b		One (1) unit Hydraulic Trough & Infeed Thread rolling machine	P 148,500.00
AMD-ML-211c		One (1) unit Thread Rolling machine	P 98,800.00
AMD-ML-212a	Brgy. Santol, Balagtas, Bulacan	One (1) complete set of Bihon Making machine	P 606,200.00
AMD-ML-212b		One (1) set Dryer Housing 2.35 m x 23.3 m x 4.3 m.	P 26,400.00
AMD-ML-213	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	One (1) lot various sewing machines and equipment (17 units)	P 116,100.00
AMD-ML-214b	Bo. Tawiran, Obando, Bulacan	Two (2) units Grinding Machine	P 26,400.00
AMD-ML-215	100 Industry Rd. II, Cor. Reparo Rd., Araneta University Village Potrero, Malabon	One (1) set Surface Grinder Machine, SANSEI, made in Japan	P 70,000.00
AMD-ML-216d	Sariaya Imex, Inc. Compound, Brgy, Pili, Sariaya	One (1) unit Digital Weighing Scale, Yale, 180 kg. capacity	P 5,500.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

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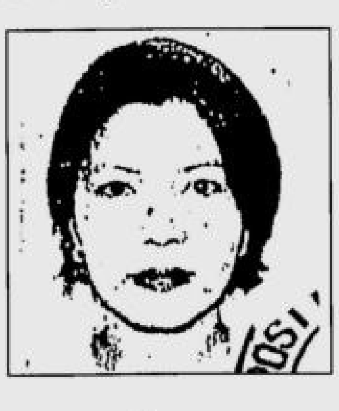
(047) 237-3589 or 818-9511 loc. 1434 for BLGA
(043) 756-4216/17 or 818-9511 loc. 1429 for LIP

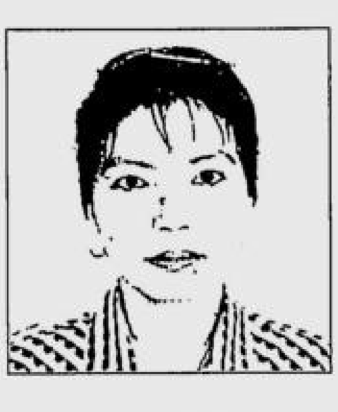
ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – August 4, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby warned that **Mrs. FELY TERRADAÑO**





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JUDITH HUBILLA ALEJO

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 2, 2004 at the age of 65.

Her bereaved husband, Judge **FLORO P. ALEJO**; children **JONG, BECHAY, JOKER (†)**, and **JEL**; son-in-law **BEN** and grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at La Funeraria Paz, Crematory, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City on Sunday, August 8, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

> "...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
> — 2 Corinthians 5:8

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Supreme Court
Manila

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of the Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP) and intends to apply a portion of the loan to eligible payments under this Contract.

One of the components under the JRSP is the development of model courts in strategic areas nationwide. These model courts include *Angeles City* for Luzon: *Lapu-lapu City* for the Visayas: and *Cagayan de Oro City* for Mindanao. The upgrading of infrastructure and information technology facilities in these model courts are envisioned to showcase policy initiatives such as decentralization of administrative and financial functions and improved public access to court services.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines now invites consultancy firms to prepare the **Detailed Engineering and Design of the Renovation of the Halls of Justice in Lapu-Lapu City, Angeles City and Cagayan de Oro City**.

Interested consultancy firms must have a minimum of eight (8) years experience in the design preparation of vertical structures and minimum of two (2) projects of the same scope and nature in the last five (5) years. Interested firms are required to submit not later than 2:00 p.m. on or before the 14th day following the date of the first publication on 4 August 2004 one (1) original and nine (9) copies of their Letter of Intent, Company Profile to Justice Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr., Court Administrator and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for the JRSP, c/o Engr. Nestor U. Venturillo, Head, BAC-JRSP Secretariat, 6th Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.

The Consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants.by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002).

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offer, waive any defect or informality therein and accept the offer which it deems most advantageous to the Court.

4 August 2004.

(Sgd.) **JUSTICE PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.**
Court Administrator and
Chairman JRSP-Bids and Awards Committe

(PDI--Aug. 4 & 11, 2004)

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E-mail addresses: rbasallo@pnoc-ec.com.ph, hr@pnoc-ec.com.ph or purch@pnoc-ec.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and if, subsequently found eligible, to submit sealed bids for the supply, and delivery of:

YEAR 2005 OFFICE UNIFORM TEXTILES
PR NO. HR 244620

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on **August 6, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Manila time**, at **Bldg. 1 Conference Room** of the above stated address.

Deadline for the submission of all Eligibility Requirements will be on **August 16, 2004, Monday, up to 4:00 P.M. at PNOC EC Purchasing Section, Building 1** of the above address. Only suppliers who are prequalified will be allowed to submit their bids.

Sealed technical and financial bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the PNOC EC Purchasing not later than **August 30, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Manila time**, at the above stated address. Late bids shall not be accepted. Public opening of the technical and financial bids shall follow thereafter. Only the bids of the technically complying bidders shall be opened.

The approved budget for the project, which shall be sourced from Company funds, is PHP 452,700.00. Delivery of the textiles to **PNOC EC, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila** shall be on or before **October 15, 2004.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award to any bidder whose bid is considered the lowest calculated responsive bid.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. SAN JOSE**
Bids and Awards Committee
Chairman

(PDI–August 4, 2004)

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E-mail: cherseum@pamp.pworld.net.ph
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Rizal Street, Cauayan, Isabela
Tel No. (078) 652-2279
Legaspi City
Ms. Irene Solmirano
Brgy. 34 Oro Site, Legaspi City
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Culiat, Quezon City
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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP / JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : **August 18, 2004**, 2:00 PM simultaneously at the Aplaya DPP Office, Jasaan, Misamis Oriental Province and at Solarium Multi-Purpose Hall, Ground Floor, Bldg. 1, NPC-Head Office, Agham Rd. corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following unserviceable items:

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. One (1) lot: unserviceable and Junk plant parts, Corroded-drums, used magnet / stator wires, Discarded-batteries, junk vehicles, used tires, all located at the Radiator Area, Warehouse, Motor Pool, Tank Farm and Helipad Area of the Aplaya Diesel Power Plant, Jasaan, Misamis Oriental Prov.	P 1,108,000.00 / lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY. ORIGINALS MUST BE PRESENTED.**

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Building-1, NPC Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. **Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM August 17, 2004.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC-MMD

(PDI – August 4, 5 & 6, 2004)

Wofex opens

THE most anticipated food show in the country today, WORLD'S FOOD EXPO 2004 more popularly known as WOFEX opens today at the World Trade Center with Senators Mar Roxas and Jamby Madrigal cutting the ribbon. Assisting them is Guest Artist, Janice de Belen with Chairpesons of the expos supporting organizations: PAMPI, HRCAP, FCAP, PAG-ASA, FIL-CHAI, PASI, PHILFOODEX, INFOMAPP, PBL among many others. Co-located events of WOFEX are the Baker's Fair, Foodmach Expo, World Food Summit, Exporter's Supermarket and the Taste Expo. Major Competitions will take place during the 4-day event from August 4 to 7, 2004 such as the No Boundaries Salad Competition by Unilever Foodsolutions, Coldkitchen Fest Creative Sandwiches Assembly Competition by San Miguel Greatfoods Solutions & Frenchbaker, and the Master Flairtending and Grand Cocktail Competition by the Philippine Bartenders League. Free seminars will also be conducted on the latest in the food & beverage industries among many others.

A workshop on understanding the projector technology

SINAG Arts Foundation, the leading technical institution for theater and live performances in the country will conduct a workshop on projectors. The workshop will aim to discuss topics on how to use video projectors properly and effectively. Participants will learn how to choose the right beamers, cables, screens, and other accessories for their respective needs and purposes.

Dam M. Gomez, an audio visual technology specialist of Imatech Corporation will be facilitating the workshop at the Sinag Arts Studio on Aug. 23 Mon and 24 Tue, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dan is a degree holder in BS in Electronics and Communication, an AMX awards recipient in the U.S., and has 15 years of experience on Audio Visual technology. Fore more information please call Sinag Arts Foundation tel. no. 531-34-91, fax 531-95-24 or email at sinagarts@yahoo.com.

Workshop fee is 1,500.00 Pesos for 2 sessions with lunch.

Career planning workshop

ARE you in the right job based on your career interests, needs and values?

Are you restless because you do not know what career opportunities you have in the organization? Do you feel you are not getting anywhere in your organization, you are stuck and bored? Are you being by-passed by younger and more junior employees? Have you recently lost your job and do not know where to go or what to do?

Career planning will help you identify your career interests, needs and values, and broaden your career options based on organizational requirements, thus, promoting your employability or "re-deployability," career growth and even career advancement.

Those interested in career planning are invited to attend a two-day "Career Planning Workshop" to be held on August 10 - 11, 2004 by Career Systems, Inc., one of the leading career development consulting companies in the Philippines. Dr. Josie Santamaria, pioneer in career development in the Philippines, author of Life/Career Planning Workbook and Career Counseling: Cases and Techniques, and columnist of Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work Section, will conduct and facilitate the workshop. For more information, call Cora Dalena or Vanessa Montes at tel. no. 817-0110.

Does your office provide work-life balance?

From page B12

There's a lot work-life balance privileges can do for the overall growth of workers and office morale. Our partners in this advocacy, ECOP and PMAP, say that productivity increases by up to 80 percent if employees have work-life balance.

"A balanced person is a happy person," WM Founding Editor An Mercado-Alcantara says in our Moms at Play workshop series (an office tour where we teach work-life balance strategies through improvisational comedy by SPIT). Simplistically put: Happy people make good employees. And good employees, make, hopefully, good leaders within the organization (much like what Elle Woods said in Legally Blonde: "Exercise produces endorphins. Endorphins make people happy. Happy people don't kill other people.") And while they're the best workers they can be inside the organization, they're the best parents they can be outside.

Other stuff you'll learn from An if you sign up for our Moms At Play series: You're balanced if you feel you're on the right path, career-wise and in your personal life. You're balanced if you feel you can express your feelings healthily. You're balanced if you listen your inner voice (called "guilt" or "conscience" by some), when the scales of work-life tip on one side, and you heed it accordingly to swing them back into equilibrium.

Work-life poll

There are many ways an organization can provide work-life balance to its employees. This paper, for instance, holds regular yoga and aerobics classes for its employees, to help them de-stress. It also has a day care service for busy moms who don't have caregivers at home.

In the pages of the magazine, we have a survey that asks how an office can offer work-life balance to its employees. Check out the choices and if you have time, e-mail me your answers and any more suggestions:

What is the most important benefit your employer can offer to you in terms of work-life?

Flexible work hours
Extended hours/ shortened work week
Telecommuting
On-site day care
Take home meals (for those who have to cook dinner when they get home)

Working Mom of the Year

While you're at it, take some time too to nominate your choice for Working Mom of the Year for Outstanding Working Mom from the advertising industry, healthcare, entrepreneurship, media, and financial institutions.

Ballots are available at Working Mom Magazine, ABS-CBN Publishing office, fourth floor, ELJCC Building, ABS-CBN Compound, Lopez Drive, Q.C. For inquiries regarding the WM of the Year and/or Moms at Play, give Lou Gonzales or Marla Silayan a ring at 415-2762 or 415-2272 loc 4644.

(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom Magazine. Feedback is welcome at gina_llanes@abs.pinoycentral.-com.)

Resume writing tips

By Candy G. Villanueva

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

BEFORE buying a book, what do you look at? The book jacket, of course. Unless it's a known title, a book won't stand out from a shelf if the cover isn't eye-catching. If you fancy the cover, you might pick it out and look at the blurb at the back. If the summary draws you in, then it's money for the bookstore.

It's the same thing with your resume. If you wish to be singled out from a long line of hungry jobseekers, you need to stand out. You have to have a good blurb or summary.

Your resume is your summary. It is a written description of your experiences, background, skills and capabilities that your prospective employer will use as a screening device. Whether you're starting at the bottom rung of the ladder or taking the next step to greater heights, you will need to arm yourself with an impressive resume because it is your first introduction to your prospective employer.

Some say a short concise resume is best. Others prefer a long thorough one. Which one to follow? Following a few basic rules in resume writing ensures one step towards employment.

Basics

You can read and write. That should be a given for any jobseeker looking for an executive space in the corporate world. It is therefore unforgivable to commit spelling boo-boos and grammatical errors. Typos are inevitable but have you ever heard of proofreading, editing and every writer's best friend, the word processor spell check? Go through your resume over and over again.

If possible, have a friend take a look at it. Having someone else take a look at your resume will provide you with a fresh perspective not only in form but also in content. If you are a fresh graduate, your school's career and placement office or guidance counselor could help you out.

Remember that you are applying for a professional position. Your resume should suggest that as well. Don't scrimp on the paper. A thin cheap paper might suggest weakness or sloppiness. A thick good quality paper suggests reliability and confidence. The print should be clear and easy to read. Font size should be between 10 to 12. Avoid italics and scripts. If you want to experiment with fonts, at least be consistent and stick to conservative-type styles. Highlight or underline significant data or headings only.

Format

The De La Salle University Career and Placement Office suggests the following headings for the resume: Contact Data, Education, Extra-Curricular Activities, Work Experience, Personal Background and References. Contact Data should include your full name, complete city address, provincial address, telephone numbers and e-mail address. Education, Extra-Curricular Activities and Work Experience should include inclusive years, name of school, organization or company and a very brief description. All entries must start from the most recent. Professionals who've had a long line of experiences can do away with the Extra-Curricular Activities.

Personal Background contains date and place of birth and skills and qualities that are relevant to the job. A person applying for a magazine for example may write "Fluent in English and Italian; Proficient in the following software: Windows 2000, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), Adobe PageMaker, Adobe Photoshop and CorelDraw; Constant Internet User; Artistically inclined; Hobbies include writing, drawing and painting."

Depending on your experience and field, the order of the subheadings can be reversed, interchanged or customized. A person applying for a specific job may include a Skills and Seminars heading related to the field. This will emphasize a candidate's ability or qualification for a specific job.

Avoid personal pronouns and articles. "I," "a," or "an" doesn't sound too professional. Remember, you're writing a resume not a narrative. Instead of saying "I conceptualize, plan and implement training programs," drop the "I" and say "conceptualizes, plans and implements training programs." According to Reggie Gines of John Clements Consultants, streamlining your resume also maximizes space and results in punchy phrases.

Power words

Be specific and direct to the point with your words. If you say "responsible for training," what does "responsible" mean exactly? "Facilitates and conducts trainings," sounds more helpful and impressive. Gines says to use power verbs or action words that are specific like "achieved," "acquired," "adopted," "audited," "generated," "founded," "edited," "drafted," "promoted" and "programmed." There are hundreds of words in the dictionary you could use.

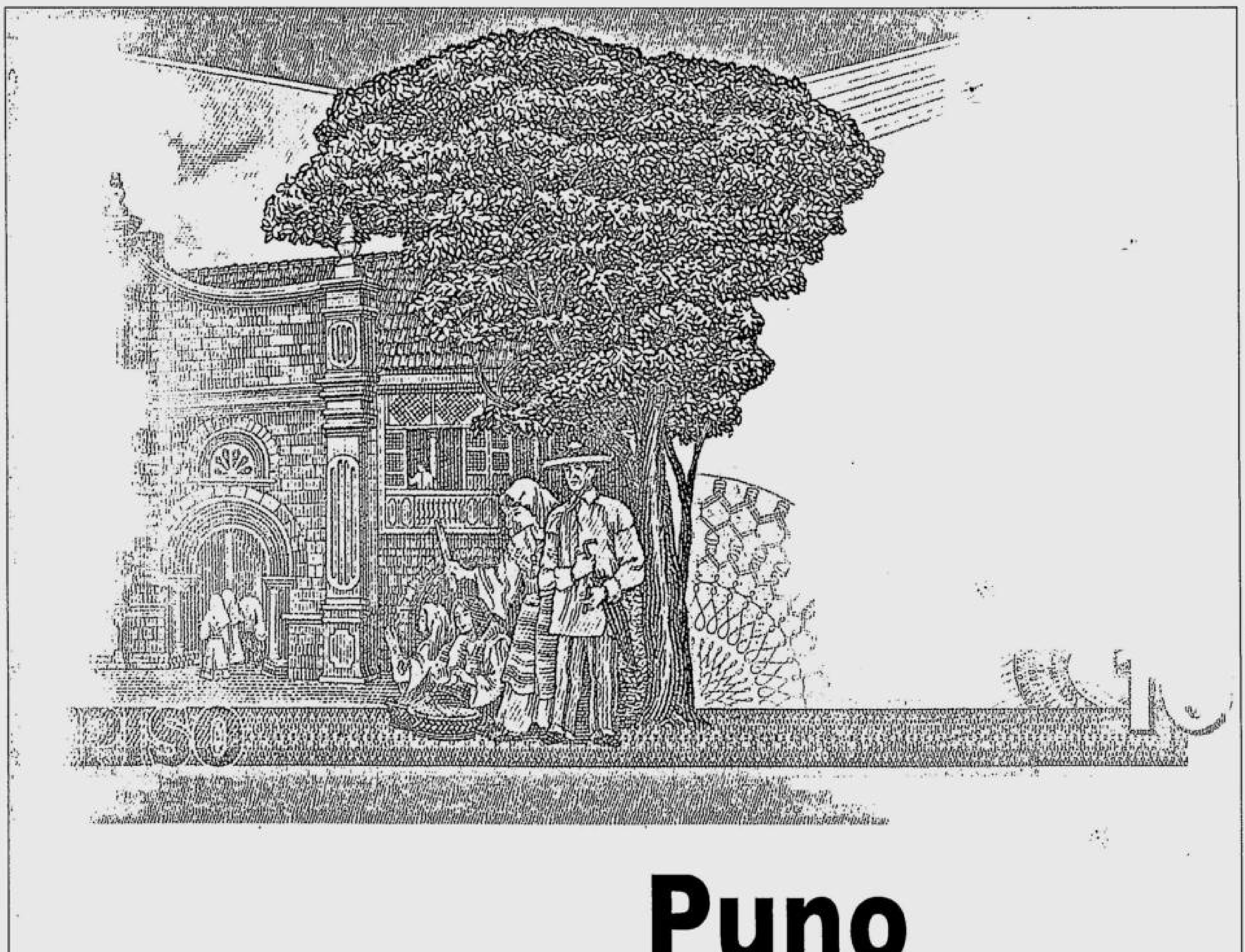
You're not writing your autobiography, so don't narrate your life with enthusiasm. Reserve personal information like favorites and pet peeves to your slum book. Unless you're applying for the Philippine Philharmonic, the recruiter doesn't care if you won second place in your school's singing contest.

To the point

Leave explanations and descriptions later for the interview. Be concise and avoid paragraphs. Human Resource personnel are burdened with piles and piles of applications everyday. They would prefer quick easy reads that would tell them immediately what they want at first glance. Most of them scan through resumes so by enumerating your qualifications in bullets, you would be helping them a great deal. Know what the company is looking for and write what the recruiter wants to read. That is, focus on what is relevant to your prospective employer.

To make your resume visually pleasing to the eye, use headings, use lots of spaces and follow a consistent format.

(To be continued)



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For walk-in sellers, please drop off your newspapers at the following Inquirer offices:
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LAGUNA: FEP Printing Press, Printown, Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna • Tel. No. 897-4386 Loc. 2158. Contact person: Rene Chavez
CEBU: FEP Printing Press, Warehouse #1, Menzi Compound National Highway, Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City • Tel. no. (032) 340-7970 to 71. Contact person: Lenny Brua
DAVAO: FEP Printing Press loading dock, Barangay Ma-A, Ma-A Road, Davao City • Tel. no. (082) 244-1711 to 12. Contact person: Rowena Balandra

FEP will receive newspapers on weekdays from 9am to 4pm in Makati, 9:30am to 4pm in Cebu and Davao, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1pm to 5pm in Laguna. Sellers will be paid P5.00/kilo in Manila and Laguna, and P3.50 in Cebu and Davao.

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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Text Feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

New manager has to gain trust of team members

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

RECENTLY, my boss called me giving me the good news that I am being promoted as manager and team leader of a group of 14 people. I have been in the company for three years in the communications department where I delivered work that pleased my superiors. Now I have been asked to head the promotions department.

At first, I was excited and challenged by the promotion. It came with an increase in salary and additional perks. Recently, I met with the group I will be leading. I discovered that two of the members were nursing hurts for being bypassed for the promotion. They also view me as an outsider. They did not respond to my overtures when I engaged them in friendly conversation.

What will I do? I feel like going back to my superior to request to be brought back to my former position. But someone elsè has been placed in my position. I like the climate in the company where I work. I realize if I stick it out in this new group, I have to gain the trust of my team. What can I do?

Trust Needed

I empathize with your situation. Many new supervisors and managers encounter this situation where they rise above their peers and find themselves helpless. Their frequent question is: how do I relate with my peers now that I have to achieve the team's objectives through them? One added wrinkle is the fact that you have been promoted as manager of another department where your competencies are not known. In addition, you have two people who aspired to be in your position.

What would I do, if I were in your shoes? First of all, I will make the firm resolve, to choose to be a leader, every day and every hour a work. I will view the obstacles I am facing as temporary challenges that I have to hurdle. I will need to deliver excellent results and deserve their trust. I will keep a positive and proactive attitude.

Second, I will be mindful what the members of my new team are experiencing. They are in a "managing change" situation. They are learning how to adapt to a new leader. They will experience ending—where they would have to look at things that do not make sense anymore and let go of them. Then, they will move to a neutral zone, a wilderness experience, and finally go for the new beginnings. They may be at a grieving stage. I will be present to them. I will be of service and make suggestions.

Third, I will focus on getting a strategic handle on the tasks in front of me. I will ask my team for a whole day meeting. It will be a learning occasion for me to understand the actual situation of the team. I will look at the real conditions of my team and identify clearly the problems and urgent matters in front of us. Afterwards, together, we can determine the future conditions we desire for our team in one year's time. I would call this a short-term vision. At this point, a long-term vision may prove difficult because people may still possess unnecessary baggage from the change in leadership. We will craft our vision, our mission (the reason of being of the unit) and agree on the values and practices we will pursue as we work together. This meeting will create the opportunity for the team to participate and own the team's plan. I can even move further identifying the priorities and action plans for the quarter.

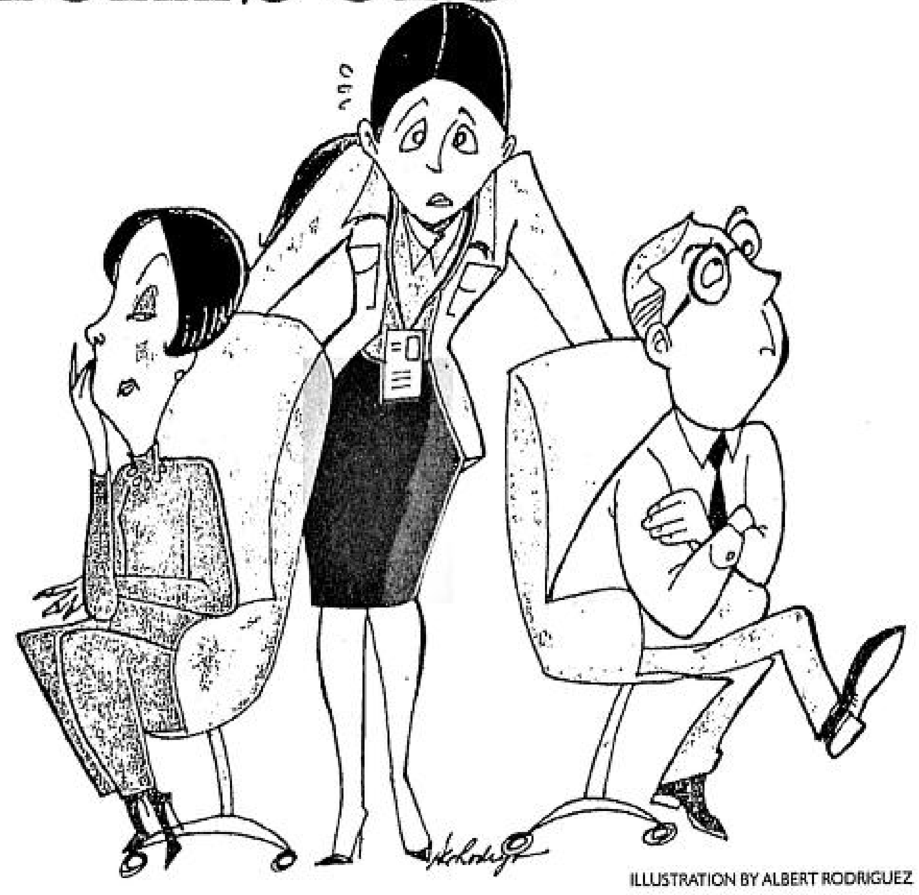


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Fourth, once the tasks are in place, I can begin to address the demotivation issue. I will stay close rather than keep a distance from the people hurting because of your promotion. Once I build a relationship with them (if they are still hurting at this point), then I can work towards reframing how they view the situation. A problem is simply one side of the coin. The other side represents opportunity. As their superior, I can in fact convert them into trusted team members who can best contribute to team results. I will recognize that they have talent and experience that can help the team. Meantime, I will manage the stress by keeping a positive attitude and remaining physically fit.

If I were in your shoes, these would be the four things I would do. I suggest that you turn to meditation and prayer also to overcome your difficulties. Take care and God bless.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.*)

Does your office provide work-life balance?

WORKING MOM

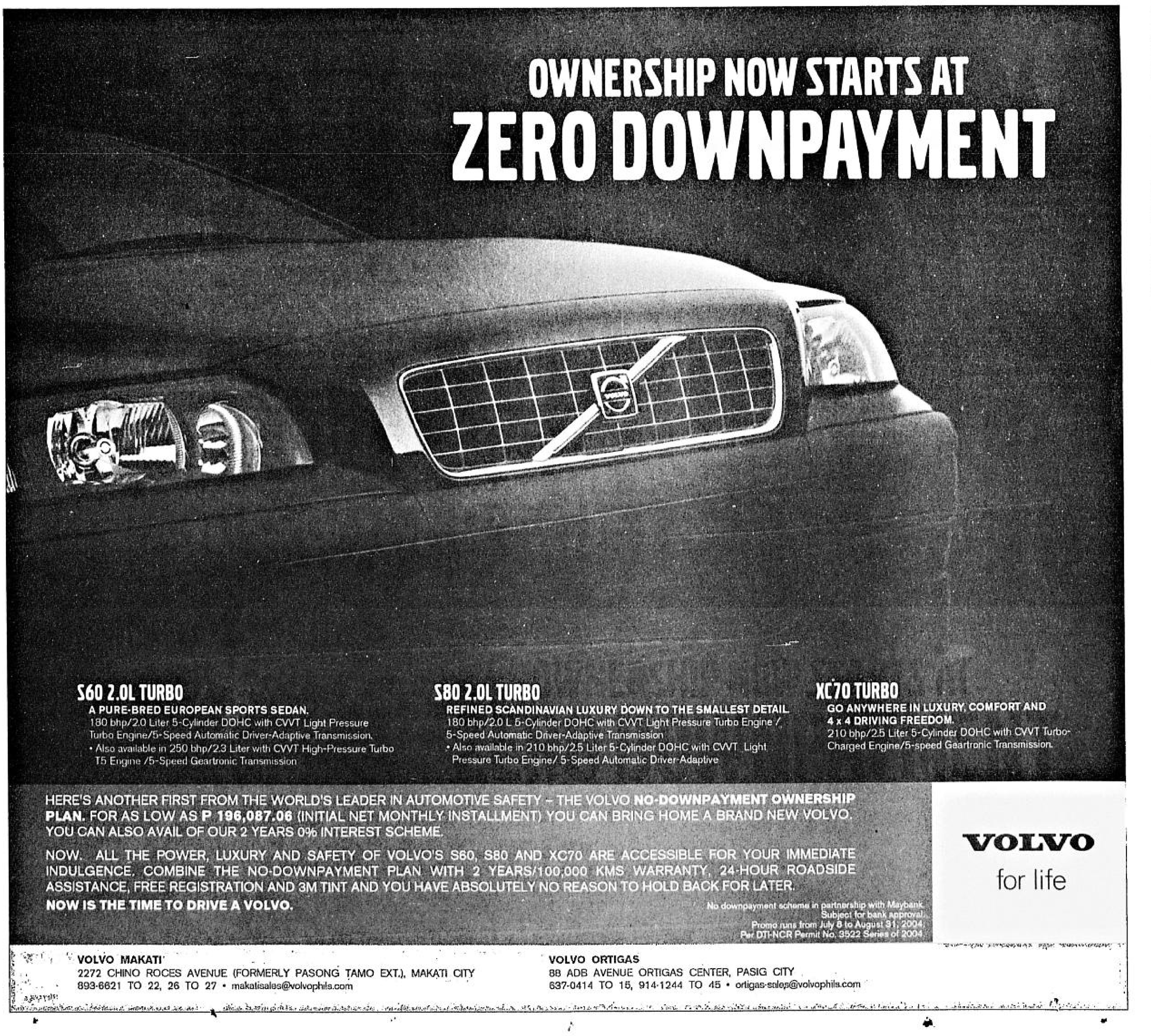
Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

THERE are two reasons why I had the audacity to come to work today (Monday) in jeans smeared with mashed squash, sneakers, and a shirt I reserve for Sunday grocery trips. Benjie Felipe, editor in chief of The Buzz Magasin, was likewise appalled: "*Anong nangyari sa 'yo?*" he exclaimed, used to my come-hither killer heels. No *yayas* happened, that's what. That, and the great work-life balance setup that this office affords me.

Sure, I had to sacrifice my usual "grown-up" ensemble for the start of a work week, but I'm grateful that our workplace doesn't flog employees for being occasionally scruffy (must be the number of former *taga-diyaryos* on board). I'm also grateful that my coming in at 1 p.m. isn't a big issue (though we do have to log in 40 hours a week). We're very understanding when mommy crises pop up. More than once, for instance, one coworker has brought her baby to the office, and like a basketball the amiable little boy was passed from department to department while she went about her job. Isn't that great for a working mom, or what?

It's not like we turn the whole publishing office into a day care center at our whim, no. Some of us can't even stand little kids. But being aware of how important work-life balance is to the productivity of its employees, our HR department and bosses are reasonable enough to make concessions for unavoidable circumstances like my coworker—and, in Working Mom's case, mine.

DOES/B11



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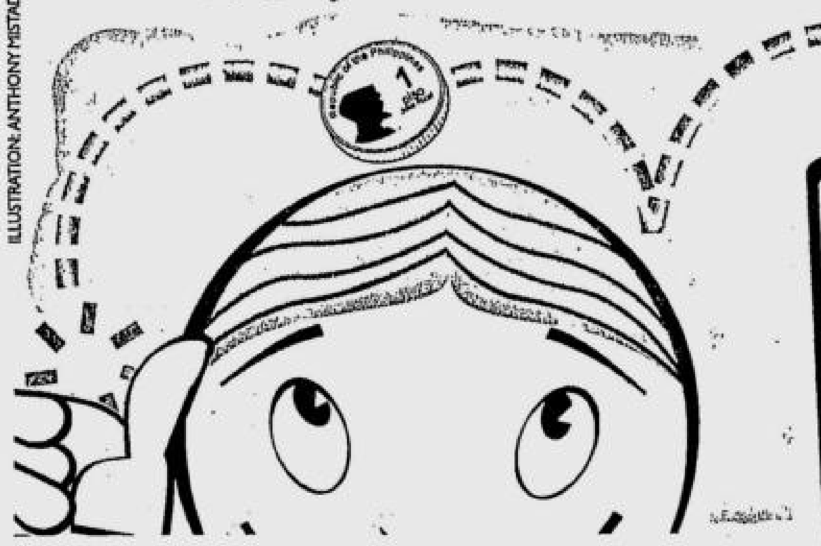


ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Advice from the money masters

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
2bU! Correspondent

IF MONEY only grew on trees, everything would be easy. But it doesn't, so we all have to be concerned with mundane things like credit limits or monthly allowances.

Contrary to popular belief, though, saving money and making it grow can be almost as enjoyable as spending it all in one day. Money masters from Citibank, the country's largest foreign bank, have words of advice on how to manage our cash.

Watch what you buy

Spend some time listing down all your expenses. You might be surprised at how the little things you buy every day all add up. A frappucino might seem harmless, but getting one before school every day can set you back by P500 a week.

The same with drinking softdrinks during lunch. Water costs much less and is healthier, too. You might also want to use your credit card to track expenses. The monthly statements make it easier for you to study your spending habits, says Citibank Libis branch manager Leah de Guzman.

Minimize your text messages. If you can say your message in person or by using a Post-It note, that would be so much cheaper, and sweeter, too.

Arrange for a carpool. Need I say more that parking and gas are so expensive these days? Commuting is even cheaper, but stay safe. Avoid carrying valuables or drawing too much attention to yourself. All your scrimping and saving will be useless if you get held up or lose your wallet to a pickpocket.

Buy used books and magazines. Or resist the urge to photocopy the whole book. Try leafing through the pages first and then photocopy only the relevant parts. Even better, just borrow the book from the library and take down important points in your notebook. That way, you improve your memory, too. People tend to remember more when they write it down.

Eat at the school or office cafeteria. Who knows, the food may not be as terrible as you think. But if it is, you might want to bring your own lunch.

Hang out at home. Invite your friends to your place, borrow some DVDs, raid the pantry for some popcorn and get set for a movie marathon. If you really want to go out, check the news for free concerts, and your Friendster bulletin board if anyone you know is having a party.

Be a smart shopper

Before you buy anything, make sure you can afford it. Save before you spend, not the other way around.

Wait a week or two before making a major purchase. You might realize later on that you really don't need sandals costing P5,000, or comic books that sell at P1,000. Try buying things that appreciate in value, like jewelry. Christopher Ting, Citibank Binondo Branch Manager, says techie gadgets should be avoided since their value depreciates fast in just a few months.

Try shopping in department stores like SM and Robinson's. Ditto for *ukay-ukay*; there's never a better time tô go vintage. Your *lola*'s or mom's closet can yield some treasures too. Cut their long skirts to make a hip miniskirt (but of course, ask their permission first, or you might end up having to buy them a new one!)

Use only paper bills when shopping. Keep the coins in your bag, and put them in a jar when you get home. It automatically forces you not to spend all your money.

Make money the easy way

Clean out your closet and have a garage sale. Schedule it around the end of the month when it's payday so people will be more in

ADVICE/ C2

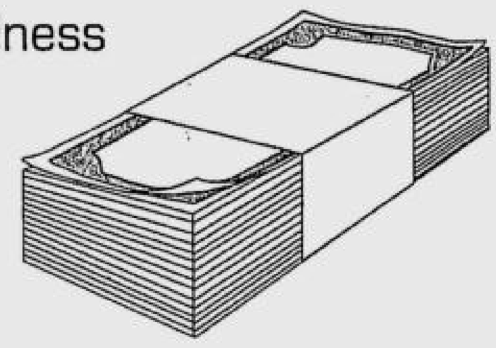
Shop wisely, scrimp on texting and phone calls, sell what you don't need, live simply

2BU! AND CITIBANK TOAST THE YOUNG PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Color of money

Part 2

Start young! Earn big! That seems to be the slogan of enterprising teenagers who come up with small but bright business ideas that may become tomorrow's San Miguel, Jollibee and Bench



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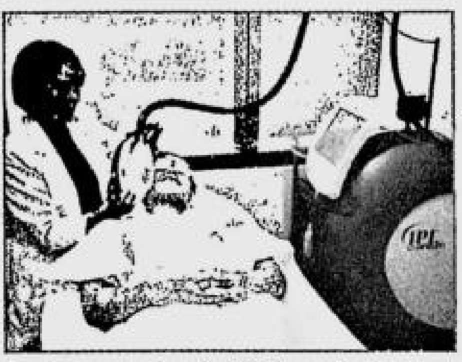
Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

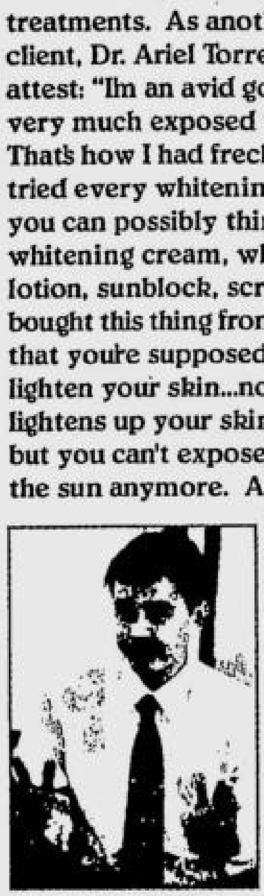
IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a trace. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions such as skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."



Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.



Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

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To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

Young ones in business

Entrepreneurship can be mastered even at a young age

Text and photos by Tammy David and Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondents

WITH the dynamism of today's youth, it's not surprising that entrepreneurs are getting younger every year. Whether it's a simple buy-and-sell venture that they run in-between classes, or their own company, more young people are proving that you do not need an MBA to make money.

Whether fresh out of school or still in it, they share one thing in common: the passion for business. Meet these successful young entrepreneurs:

E-mail the authors at tammydavid@gmail.com and cathy_young1@yahoo.com

Jannice and Jemelee Dy

Garments and manufacturing

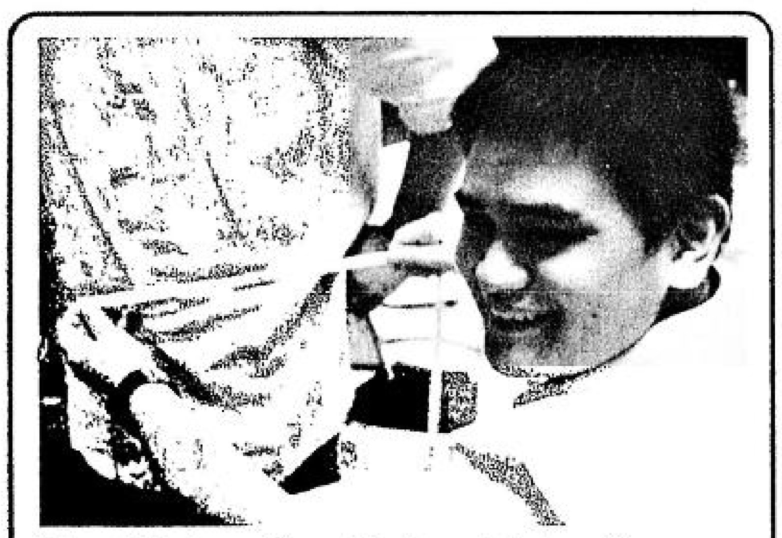
THEY may only be in their twenties, but sisters Jannice and Jemelee have been in the garment business for some time. "We love clothes and decided, 'Why not make money out of it?'" Jannice says. So they opened early this year Spindle Wear.

Having their own business did not start easy. They started with their P20,000 savings as capital. Time constraints and inexperience were difficulties they had to overcome. It was the sisters' discipline, patience and learning that kept the business going. With the positive business philosophy of "creating a difference and doing the things that make you and your customers happy," they have continued their business in spite of uncertain times.

The best thing about having their own company is that "You are your own boss, you get to have a flexible time, and you dictate how much you earn," Jannice says.

Their long-term goals include making the company grow so that it can become a big name in the garment industry. "The future is up to you," Jannice says. "You make the market, you create a need, and you give your best to your customers."

Contact Jannice at 0916-3758447 and Jem at 0917-8170119.



Noel Sebastian Kalaw Tolentino

Garments, sewing and manufacturing.

NOEL Tolentino's parents had asked him, "What would you rather be, the tail of a lion or the head of a rat?" So at a young age, Noel already knew the answer. He was six years old when he started helping out in the family-owned restaurant based in California. From peeling eggs to manning the cash register, Noel easily got the hang of work and business.

But Noel wanted something more. "I felt that I needed to be an 'owner,' not just a shop owner but an entrepreneur, a person that creates businesses and possibly sells it also," he says.

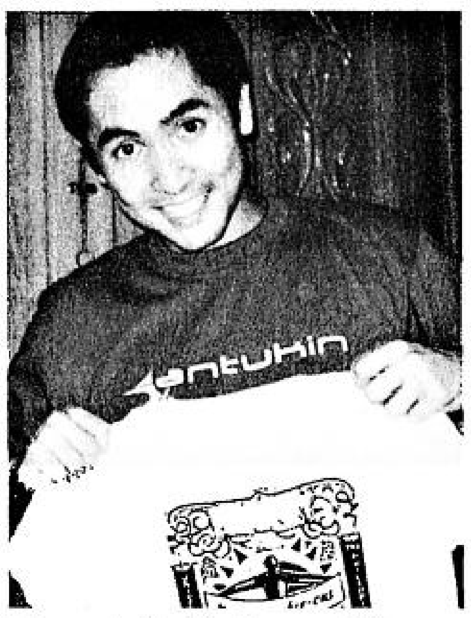
Later, Noel found his niche in his mom's tailoring business, Patonan Linen and Apparel. At 18, he took over from his older brother and did some changes by buying new machines and issuing new protocols for employees. Like most young entrepreneurs, he got his capital from "angel investors." "I borrowed from my Mom, my Dad and my Lola."

Noel saw a potential in *barongs* since it was a fad among young executives and students. His first customers were his teachers and schoolmates in high school. Now, aside from the flagship product, *barong* RTW's, Patonan also does made-to-order and uniforms.

Noel's motto is "transparency and accountability," which shows how he values good communication with people (staff and customers) and responsibility. "I offer better service, not just good quality in my garments but the service that goes with it. I follow it up and talk to the people myself. I do personal relations."

Besides Patonan, Noel is busy developing Garderoba for the high-end market. Also, he is a senior taking up Entrepreneurial Management at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Contact Noel Tolentino at patona_n@yahoo.com



Dominic P. Serquiña

T-shirt printing

FOR some, business savvy may be restricted to economics majors, but not for fifth-year Sports Science major Dominic Serquiña. Sometimes, the key to being successful is a matter of being observant. "I went into this business when I noticed that many UP organizations needed shirts every semester," he says. "However, they were often not satisfied with the price or the quality, so I decided to come up with T-shirts that were of comparable quality but at lower prices and coupled this with better services like free and on-time delivery."

His T-shirt printing business caters to student organizations in different colleges and universities. Some customers prefer to have the T-shirts packaged with bags, pens and ID laces for special events, so he also provides kits tailor-made to their specific needs. Corporate clients are also welcomed.

Starting with "practically nothing," Dominic tried to establish a name that students could rely on. He looked for contacts and asked friends for referrals. It was also a challenge to balancing his business, academics and household chores.

Now, his efforts have paid off. He plans to acquire his own facilities, hire his own employees, and expand operations to the provinces after graduation. He looks up to John Gokongwei and Henry Sy, his grandmother Delfina C. Serquiña, and his great grandfather, Lolo Tiago Chantiaco as business idols.

How much does a T-shirt business earn? Picture a 21-year-old student able to pay for his gas, phone and credit card bills, clothes, books, and even his own tuition. He also contributes to household expenses and invests in new business ventures.

"I have always believed that people are the best assets in any business," Serquina says. "So I maintain very good working relations with my suppliers, and I also put a very big [premium] on satisfying my customers."

Contact Dominic at 4545125 (landline), 0927-6299099 and 0917-8972304.

Michael Ross C. Nisce

Web advertising

ROSS Nisce has been contributing to the OFW community for quite some time now. "A friend of mine told me that there was a market that we could tap where only few has just ventured in and that was the OFW market," he says.

So Ross put up an advertising company that focuses on Internet real estate advertising targetting OFWs. Along with Xandro Xandro Osias, Kate Aton, Leanard Ignacio, Jay Anyong and Natalie Lim, Ross incorporated and decided HanapBahay Web Advertising, Inc. Their website, www.hanapbahay.com.ph, was launched last April with an initial capital of P30,000.

Back in his hometown in La Union, his family owns the biggest rural banks in the region, but he still prefers to put up his own business. "I never thought of myself being an employee and giving my resumes to companies, but I see myself having employees under me and accepting their resumes. I believe that having my own business, being my own boss is more fulfilling than anything else."

Ross, 19, says he is learning the ropes of the business and other industries. "But the most important things I have learned are the value of money, the value of work and respect. If you don't work, you have no income. Even though I still get an allowance from my parents, I still can't just not work and leave my partners. It's also respect for them that they've also invested time and money in this venture."

What sets their website apart from the others is its search engine which is easier for people to browse. The site also offers flexible products and competitive prices.

Ross will not stop with HanapBahay. He plans to venture in the restaurant business and provide more jobs. It will take time and more money, but Ross is confident he can overcome those obstacles. "Everything is hard; live with it. There's no such thing as free lunch. Perseverance, hard work and a noble idea are the keys to success!"

Visit www.hanapbahay.com.ph

Mike Marquez

Fast food & catering

CHICKEN lovers who want to take a break from the usual fried chicken or *lechon manok* will be glad to know there's another establishment that offers variety. FOWL! Fast Food and Catering is the brainchild of 21-year-old Mike Marquez.

Growing up, Mike had not wanted to become an entrepreneur. "I believe I owe it to the Entrepreneurial Management program (of UA&P) and my grandfather for imbibing the idea of being your own boss," he says.

Mike got into the food business since his mother is a private chef "who happens to have 'to die for' recipes for chicken and other Mediterranean and continental dishes." So Mike capitalized on her expertise and trained his own cook.

And like most entrepreneurs, Mike sourced capital from the family due to the lack of financial institutions that give assistance to students who have no credit standing.

Mike has to balance academics and business. "I think it's a trade-off. Anyone else would indeed prioritize their own business over school if push ever came to shove. The important thing is it can be done, and it feels really good (that I am) living proof of this!"

Despite the stiff competition, Mike believes he can still excel in the chicken business through "keen observation of customer patterns and competitors' attributes." He adds, "I also believe that as long as you always emphasize quality, you won't be left behind!"

FOWL! offers Honey roast for the Filipino taste, Classic for those who can't get enough of the original recipe and the best-selling spicy Chicken Diablo, which, according to Mike, is "so good, it's almost evil!"

Aside from the all-time faves such as Fried chicken and Chicken Salpicao, FOWL! also has pasta and merienda like potato skins and Pan De Fowl. Great meals cost from P59 to P95.

Mike says one lesson he has learned from business is "being able to realize that business is a continuous process and the only way to win is to triumph over the little battles against competitors (direct or indirect) and within yourself as well."

His advice to future entrepreneurs: "Putting up your own business might seem overwhelming at first, so make sure you can more or less calculate the risks involved. If you have a good concept and a good business plan, go out there and make a name for yourself!"

FOWL! is located at Food Summit, 11th floor, LKG Tower Ayala Ave.

Advice from the money masters

From page C1

clined to buy. Price them a little bit higher than what you think they're worth, so you and your customers can have room to haggle. Tip: Shoes and bags sell like hotcakes, along with stuffed toys.

Put your good grades to use by tutoring the kids next door, or by applying at one of the many tutorial centers.

Do some buy-and-sell. When you go to a place with spectacular bargains (like Bangkok), buy some extra clothes or watches to sell back home. Make sure though that they don't sell the same thing here for a lower price.

Know where to put your cash

Open a savings account so it will earn interest. You don't even have to spend so much time visiting the bank. Citibank, for one, has an online savings accounts which you can access from your computer 24/7. You might even want to deposit your money in your parents' savings account, since larger deposits get higher interest rates.

Consider buying an insurance plan. Not only does it help you save money, says Ting, it also covers you against accidents. Don't be intimidated by filling out all those forms; ask your parents to explain the fine print to you.

Start saving now

The earlier you start saving, the better. Citibank branch manager for Cebu Judith Go warns us not to wait for excess money, because it actually never happens.

Most people put off saving because they don't think they're getting enough yet. But if you always postpone saving, you will never have more than enough, because you'll get used to spending everything that comes your way.

No matter how small you think your allowance or salary is, always find room to save. The key is to save each month no matter how small, adds Tuttie Lecaroz, Citibank branch manager for Alabang.

Find a purpose

Finally, do some long-term planning. Are you planning to save up for a new phone, or a trip to Boracay? If you know the reason why you have to save, then it becomes much easier to motivate yourself to actually do it.

Annette Tirol, Citibank vice president for retail bank marketing, calls this the "I-dream-to fund." Have a purpose so you don't feel like you're missing out on life when everybody else is spending like there's no tomorrow. When you actually know why you need money in the first place, saving and making money will stop being chores and start becoming fun things to do.

Happy saving!

E-mail the author at gmeleen@lycos.com

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John Henry Du Naga

Dog breeding

WHAT sets John Henry Du Naga apart from other dog lovers? He gets profit from breeding rare dogs and having as much as 76 dogs to play with in his home.

But the successful breeder behind Timbuktu Atu Kennel (TAK) did not grow up in a house full of dogs as many would presume. In fact, John's first dog was only given to him three years ago by his ex-girlfriend.

Growing up, John had family businesses to play around and practice his entrepreneurial skills with. Being the eldest son, he took care of the family grocery store called John's Store when he was still in high school in his hometown, Masbate.

His family also owns and runs the local drug store and Blue Water Ferries.

It all started when he thought of buying more dogs when he moved to a bigger house. After acquiring two Siberian Huskies, he was introduced to the Philippine Canine Club Inc. (PCCI), which trained him to breed dogs properly and made him join dog shows.

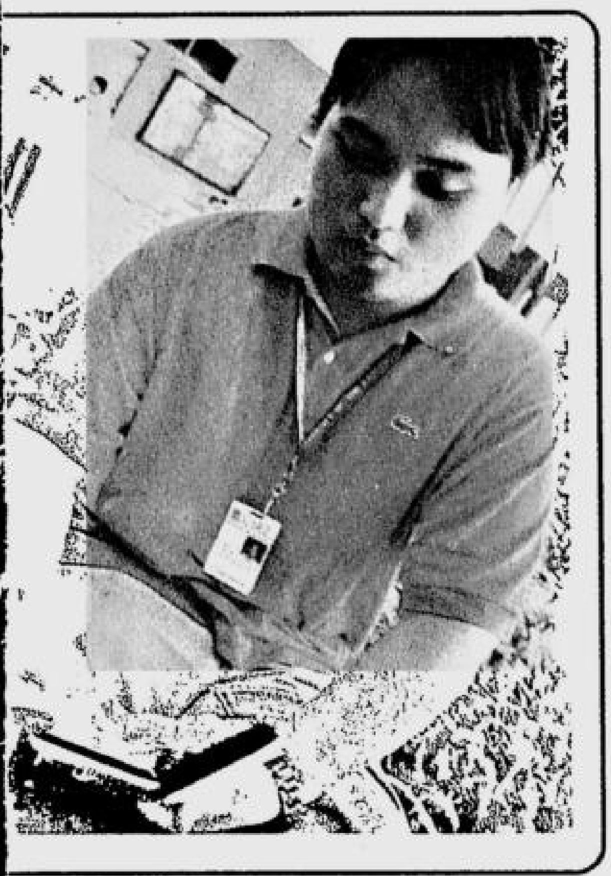
TAK was born and the rest is history. "Dog breeding is left on my own financial support and management," Du Naga says. "I must say that this is just an application of how I had been forged in my parents' business styles and strategies."

To date, TAK has 15 dog breeds from the best-selling Siberian Huskies and all-time favorite Shih-Tzus. John also boasts of having the rarest breeds in the country: the Italian greyhound, West Highland white terrier and Japanese Chin, Shiba Inus and Pulik. His dogs have won in dog shows.

Apart from being an entrepreneur, dog lover and part time commercial/print model, John is a dean's lister at the University of Asia and the Pacific where he's taking up Management. He plans to join public service; his father is Mayor Henry Naga of Dimaslan, Masbate.

John's advice to those who want to get into the dog business is, "You must have the knowledge in doing it as well as the experience. Dog breeding wouldn't be a job to pursue at all, especially when you're doing it with so much interest and passion."

Contact TAK at 9293706 or e-mail timbuktu_atu@yahoo.com



Win tickets to Hoobastank's concert on Aug. 17

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrea Liamzon!

She'll be watching Hoobastank for free at the Folk Arts Theater on Tuesday, Aug. 17 for the fab album cover that she submitted to us.

Want to see Hoobastank for free, too? Let your creativity flow and get a chance to win concert tickets to the band's "Live in Manila—The Reason Tour."

Just send us your most unique Hoobastank memorabilia or artwork (album cover, tattoo design, graffiti art, etc). E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph or send to The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City, together with your name, age, address and contact no. We will choose one winner who will get a pair of tickets each week plus a CD of Hoobastank's "The Reason" album from MCA Music until Aug. 11. Chosen entries will also be given to Doug, Dan, Markku and Chris of Hoobastank.

hoobastank

"Live in Manila—The Reason Tour" is presented by Smart Buddy, MTV and No Curfew, in cooperation with Citizen Eco-Drive Watches, official residence Manila Hotel, Pony Footwear, Fudge Magazine and radio partners Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite, RX 93.1, Joey 92.3 and NU107. To get your own tickets, call Ticketworld at 8919999.

10 ways to sell your wares

By Vanessa Arellano Doctor
2bU! Correspondent

1 Act like a professional. Hand out business cards and create letterheads to let potential customers know you take your business seriously. Have an elevator spiel ready, so you'd have a polished answer in case people ask about your services.

2 Take care of your network. This includes your relatives, family, friends, officemates and anyone you regularly interact with. You'd be surprised at how fast news travels, especially if your service or product catches people's interest.

3 Identify your customer. One way to do this is to conduct a survey to know what the market demands are. According to Citibank Marketing Director Cecille Fonacier, "the more you know your customer, the more likely you will be able to build activities that will cater to them, and develop communications that will be relevant to them."

4 Invest on giveaways. No one can resist free goods. If you want your product to be out there, give out samples, especially to those who have the ability to spread the word around for you.

5 Create promos. Consumers are easily attracted to discounts and raffle draws. To further elevate client interest in your business, the prizes for the contests should come from the higher end of your product lineup.

6 Tap the Internet. The Web presents an ocean of opportunities for various types of businesses. Most online discussion boards do not charge users who participate or who actually have threads that are solely for promotions and sales announcements. PinoyExchange.com, Friendster.com and MyGimmick.com are examples.

7 Organize events, such as parties that are interesting or unique enough to merit media attention. If your business deals with clothes, run a fashion show. If it deals with food, set up a mini food sampling festival.

8 Think out of the box. Everyone is tired of the traditional promotional schemes. Try something different for a change. If you're brave enough, do something controversial—but not at the expense of your name or product, of course.

9 Hand out novelty items. Having your company logo or mascot on any type of merchandise—mug, shirt, bumper sticker—helps enhance customer recall, and may even become a good conversation piece among people.

10 Maintain a mailing list. This way, you can update your customers with the latest products and promotions. Include photos for better recall.

E-mail the author at ness_doctor@yahoo.com

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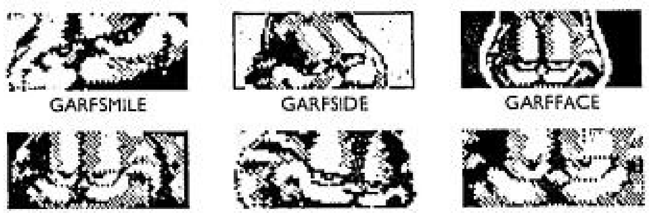

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Hey Mama	Black Eyed Peas	HEYMAMA
Handle It	Baha Men	HANDLEIT
Lets Get Retarded	Black Eyed Peas	LETSGETRETARDED
Shut Up	Black Eyed Peas	SHUTUP
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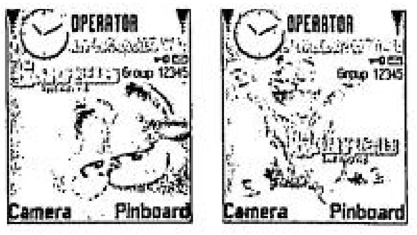
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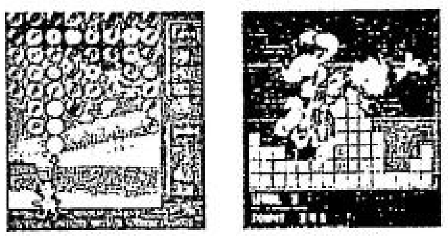

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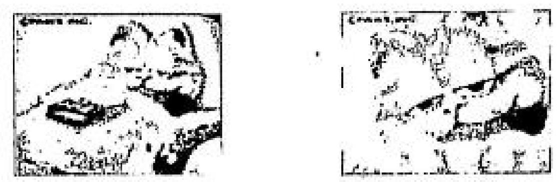

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2004

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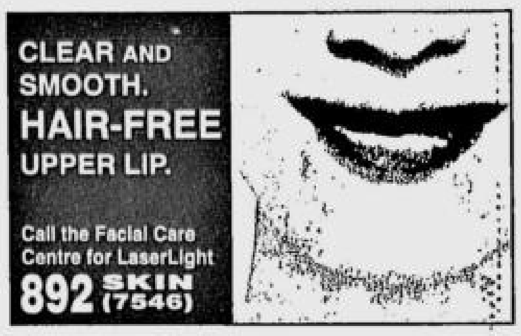

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INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez was the keynote speaker.

Celebrating the media

Inquirer's 'Mediamorphosis' reaffirms that media's inherent powers come with responsibility

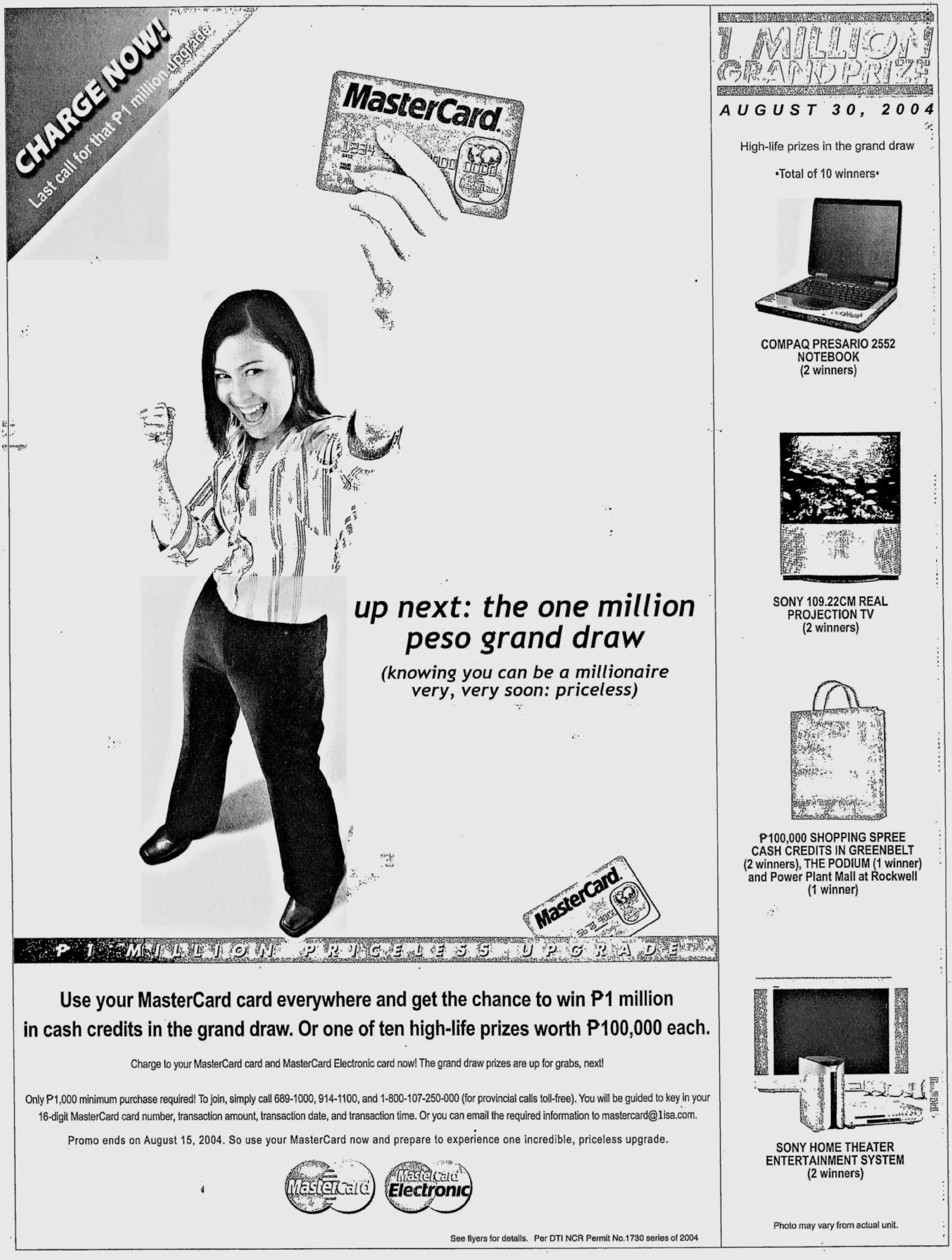
Text by Katrina Anne Yap
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Romy Homillada

MEDIA's power and the consequent responsibility it entails were again reaffirmed during the annual INQUIRER seminar series, "MediaMorphosis 2: Diversified Media in Synergy." The seminar this year featured talks on advertising, investigative journalism and independent media.

"Branding Balut: Local Flavors, Global Mar-

CELEBRATING/ D2

MEDIA mavericks: artist Kidlat Tahimik, publisher Dean Francis Alfar and digital filmmaker Khavn de la Cruz



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See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No.1730 series of 2004

1 MILLION GRAND PRIZE

AUGUST 30, 2004

High-life prizes in the grand draw

•Total of 10 winners•

COMPAQ PRESARIO 2552 NOTEBOOK (2 winners)

SONY 109.22CM REAL PROJECTION TV (2 winners)

₱100,000 SHOPPING SPREE CASH CREDITS IN GREENBELT (2 winners), THE PODIUM (1 winner) and Power Plant Mall at Rockwell (1 winner)

SONY HOME THEATER ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM (2 winners)

Photo may vary from actual unit.

ISLANDS Souvenirs president Jay Aldeguer and Lowe Inc.'s Raul Castro

INQTV's John Nery, GMA-7's Howie Severino and PCIJ's Sheila Coronel

ADBOARD chair Cerge Remonde

AN OVERFLOW audience at PICC's Meeting Room 5

Celebrating the media

From page D1

ket" tackled how Filipino products could compete globally without losing their character.

According to Cerge Remonde, chair of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and CEO of RPN 9, advertisers and media men should promote "brand Philippines." "We Filipinos should not sacrifice local flavor as it is what makes our products click internationally," he said.

Remonde cited the success of Cebu-made dried mangoes, which are considered the best in the world, grabbing shelf space in groceries in Hong Kong, Europe and the United States.

"Our *calamansi* is also being used in making health drinks abroad. And the recipe for *adobo* is now being included in Western cookbooks," Remonde added.

Remonde shared the findings of McCann-Erickson Philippines' latest youth study, which showed that most young Filipinos prefer foreign brands to local ones. However, consider the youth factor in quality and competitive pricing of products when buying, he added.

Raul Castro, executive creative director of Lowe Inc., dispelled the notion that globalization would diminish Filipino culture. He said a culture's entry to the global market would make the market adapt to the culture instead. He mentioned the likes of McDonald's and Revlon—they had to adapt to Asian culture, he said.

Castro said he even found the *adobo* in the menu of a restaurant in Paris. The *adobo* made its way there because one of the chefs was a Filipino.

Castro said Filipinos don't appreciate their own. He recounted his search for the perfect bag in Paris only to find out it was made in the Philippines.

Jay Aldeguer of Islands Souvenirs agreed. He said Filipinos should see globalization as an opportunity and not a threat. He said the success of Lea Salonga, Jollibee and Bench should point the way to the Filipino conquest of the global market. He encouraged the youth to think big.

In "Beyond the Banner: The Reality of Investigative Journalism," Sheila Coronel of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism said investigative work is not that glamorous as it involves a lot of paperwork and research. "It is about in-depth, long-term research and reporting," she said.

But the rewards are worth the hardship as Coronel said investigative reports raise public awareness on crucial issues, and may trigger personnel and policy changes.

PHILIPPINE INTERNAT
CONVENTION CEN
SUNDAY Inquirer Magazine's Ruel de Vera

John Nery, executive producer of the INQUIRER TV on ABC 5, said investigative journalism involves a lot of pressures and risks. He said the INQUIRER newspaper lost advertisers when former President Joseph Estrada called for its boycott.

Howie Severino of GMA News and Public Affairs noted the strengths of television as an investigative medium. He explained the impact of television is more immediate and more felt.

In "Out From Under: Voices of Independent Media," Dean Francis Alfar of Kestrel Studios talked about his passion for comic books. The man behind the comic book hits —"Darna" and "Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah" said the youth is starting to again appreciate Grafiction (graphic fiction).

"Manga is very popular among the young," he said. But Filipinos don't love their own, he complained, as they have neglected their own "*komiks*," whose illustrators have become the toast abroad. We shouldn't let this happen, he said.

Khavn de la Cruz of Filmless Films and dotMOV Filmfest, said digital technology has revolutionized the industry and given more opportunities for small filmmakers like him.

Internationally acclaimed independent film artist Kidlat Tahimik corrected the notion that independent artists do not want to make money. But if earning money means sacrificing his art, he said he would choose art over profit.

He criticized the way the media shape the minds of youth—"so that now we have more respect for foreign products and ideals and shy away from our own." Children are taught it is embarrassing to be seen in underpants when our ancestors, who have created a rich heritage we can be proud of, wore the *bahag* (loincloth), he added.

Kidlat Tahimik said the youth have to challenge the media so that Philippine culture, history and nature can be conserved. He added local talents should be recognized at home first before they get recognized abroad.

Morphed minds

By Rodrigo S. Sotto
2bU! Contributor

THE TRUE success of a seminar, symposium or talk is measured not by the number of their attendees, but by the insights their participants gained from them. And so we asked several students and teachers who took part in "Mediamorphosis2" the lessons they had learned.

Globalization is not really a negative thing for our country.—**Bernadine Wee, Assumption College**

Assert the vision of the Filipino by looking outside.—**Melissa Arlata, Assumption**

The talk emphasized the need to practice nationalism.—**Jerome Hernandez, College of St. Benilde**

Globalization may yet be the best thing that can happen to the Pinoy.—**Tara Cabulio, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila**

Package, grind, game.—**Len San Juan, Trinity College**

There are losers in globalization. Not everybody has the same opportunity, especially Third World countries.—**Mavie Almeda, Ateneo de Manila**

Be yourself.—**Filmore, Benguet State University**

Sometimes it's difficult to describe who and what we are in the continuous search for an identity of our own.—**Bruce Banaag, professor, La Salle-Lipa**

"Have passion for everything you do.—**Mary Ann Cruz, PLM**

Learn from other cultures.—**Pia Gonzales, Assumption**

I was encouraged by the speakers' trust in what the youth can do and how much they value the ideas of the youth. I learned that we can make contributions to society even while we're still at school.—**Ryan Diño, UP Diliman**

BERNADINE Wee

RYAN Diño

TARA Cabulio

Culture awareness.—**Suzy Pilapil, Trinity College**

"The only way to go global is to be very, very local.—**Lew Anne Cruz, DLSU**

Kidlat Tahimik and Khavin de la Cruz both lie on the extremes. Finding the middle ground could be the solution to Philippine media industry.—**Jam Jimenez, St. Benedict College**

Globalization is not evil. It is a reality that we can take advantage of.—**Dane Guzman, Assumption**

Investigative journalism has its boundaries. Undercover work can even border on the unethical. There should be respect for authority and privacy.—**Angel Velasco, UST**

No culture exists in a vacuum.—**Mark de Mesa, Sacred Heart College**

To be a good communicator, you must enhance your skills and apply them.—**Janice Reyes, San Sebastian College**

2BU! SURVEY

What will you do with P100,000?

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

ADMIT it, in these times of multimillion lotto cash prizes and billionaire high school dropouts, P100,000 is just loose change. But moolah is moolah, and besides, P100,000 is like a million dollars for chronically broke souls like me—and I know I'm not alone. Check out the chaps we talked to.

I'm a big spender and I love playing the "Bills-Chase-Me" game! If I have P100,000, I'd have to force myself to lock up 70 percent of it in a high-yielding time deposit or treasury bills. The remaining 30 percent shall go to shopping and scuba diving lessons (after all, money's meant to be spent). I'll later use my savings to sponsor a scholar in our community, treat my folks to a trip abroad, and my granny to an Obagi treatment. Uh-oh, I don't think P100,000 is enough to do all that! Help, anyone?—**Ali A. Osabel, 24**

DONNA Rose Legaspi

I will invest it for future needs.—**Julie, 24**

I would gladly save it for the rainy days—that is, after buying presents for my mom, dad and special girl.—**Carlos Martin P. Fausto, 26**

Kulang pa pambayad ng utang! I'll give the money to my parents and relatives. I like making people happy.—**Madz, 22, presently happy**

JULIAN Favila

I'd probably invest in a high-end digital camcorder to capture precious moments spent with my family and friends. Such memories come and go so fast that I'd like to treasure them for the generations to come.—**Noreene Tabarangao, 25**

Money is a means for a greater end, so I'll buy books from thrift shops, go to the spa and use the remaining amount to visit and meet a "close friend."—**Kat Loresca, 22**

DENISE Borja

I'd use the money for a one-week vacation in a secluded island with just my boyfriend, and go home looking like a sun goddess!—**Mae Alejandrino, 24**

I'll save half of it and spend the other half on a grand vacation! Maybe go to our country's best resorts like those in Palawan!—**Aileen Samia, 29**

I'll immediately deposit it in the bank.—**Apple, 22**

One, treat Mom, Lola, and my girlfriend Anna out to dinner (P5,000). Then, buy a pair of rubber shoes such as Nike Air Zoom Flight Turbine (P5,000). Finally, buy dollars with the remaining P90,000 and invest it in an ROP. The bond will mature in 2010 as forced savings.—**Julian Favila, 23**

Travel around the Philippines.—**Annalyn Piamonte, 21, has Boracay on top of her list**

Invest P25,000 in Retail Treasury Bonds, put P15,000 in an insurance fund and open a high yield savings account for the rest. Also, I'll continue to work hard to earn more!—**Donna Rose Legaspi, 23**

I'll spend the money on a luxurious vacation.—**Em Culion, 21**

I'll make sure to invest it wisely. P75,000 will go to a five-year investment product that earns high interest, and the other P25,000 I will keep in a savings account, so that I can keep the cash handy in case I decide to go on a trip and reward myself for all the hard work.—**Frances Ang, 26**

I'll buy a new cellphone to replace my three-year-old 3310. The rest will be added to my bank account.—**Ria Ramallosa, 22**

I have two investment options—one is to convert the funds to US dollars and use this for a trip later on or for further investments. Two, I keep it in pesos and place it in retail treasury bonds. This way, my principal stays intact while I can use the quarterly interest as shopping money.—**Denise Borja, 25**

Siguro, I'll buy dozens and dozens of branded clothes, shoes and accessories. *Pag may sobra, ibibili ko ng* computer.—**Marie Jean Riño, 21, would love to buy an original LV bag**

I would likely invest the money in Citibank or probably buy US dollars with it. Unlike before when I'd probably go on a shopping spree in HK the minute I get a windfall, this year I've set a personal goal for myself to save up something by the end of year, and I plan to make it happen.—**Jean Chua, 27**

I'll stop working and start my own business.—**Sherry Yu, 22**

E-mail the author at marksablan_2bu@yahoo.com.

Strap your boots on, here comes the money!

By Vanessa Arellano Doctor
2bU! Correspondent

SO you want your own business. First, ask yourself if this is something you really want to do. Because frankly, it won't be an easy job, and profits do not usually come on the first day, or on the first couple of weeks. Sometimes, for months or years even!

I don't mean to drive you away from setting up your dream venture. But we have to lay down the essentials, the most basic of which is this: raising money. Every business needs adequate funding to operate continuously. Materials have to be purchased, bills, wages and taxes need to be paid, some form of marketing has to be done.

If your start-up biz lacks cash, stretch your capital as much as you can and keep your costs to a minimum

But postpone your visions of a marketing powerhouse for a while and focus on your current limited resources. For your business to get that headstart, you need to start bootstrapping.

Scrimp and save

That means stretching your capital as much as you can and keeping your costs to a minimum. You might not realize it, but your malling-every-Saturday ritual may be the reason cash flow appears elusive.

If you can't afford to pay rent for a commercial space, for instance, set up shop at home. Friends and family would be more than glad to help you out and are likely willing to be paid less, so you get to save on overhead. Also, get your business noticed without having to spend on traditional advertising. Word of mouth is very effective, especially if you do your business well and your products scream quality.

Look within yourself. Do you have enough savings in the bank or money sitting in a number of valuable but unused properties? Have you some money stashed somewhere (such as piggy banks and loose change in rarely used bags) and merely waiting for that "rainy day"?

And if by a stroke of luck you do, is it sufficient to finance the needs of the venture? Will you have enough working money left to be able to move around comfortably and breathe easily? A "Yes" to these questions should create a "Eureka!" moment for you.

But if you still think what you have is not enough, then it's time to consider other financial sources. There is a mine of funding fonts around you. Talk to your relatives and friends. Attempt loaning from banks and other financial institutions. Consider selling some of the stuff you don't really use but leave just lying around to collect dust.

Your credit card may be used for purchases like telephones, a fax machine, personal computers or printers. It's a quick and easy way to track expenses, since credit card bills usually specify where the money was spent. However, the risk is that spending could get out of hand once you start abusing your credit card's power. And you might end up with more debt than you could handle.

Online persuasion

You may also get creative and try the Internet. I recently read about these two girls who were able to attend their high school proms in full glamour because the regular readers of their site donated money online. Talk about the powers of persuasion!

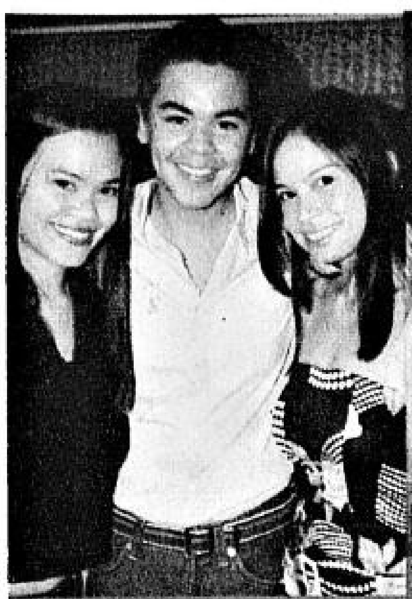
Infamous "American Idol" contestant William Hung's show-biz debut was partly due to sympathizers who decided to pool money on the Net to send him to Hollywood.

The point is, if you're really serious about getting the money for your business, you wouldn't hesitate to tap all possible resources, would you? So always keep in mind that your venture won't go anywhere if you don't have the courage to spin things for it.

And when you are committed to maintaining and improving the quality of your products and making your business improve by the day, the customers will surely take notice and will begin flocking. An ill-managed business is likely to shoo away clients and not even a hefty loan would help regain the tainted image.

Invest wisely in your name and make sure it doesn't spur doubt among people. Keeping a reputation intact does not require much spending. Do well and the profits will come.

E-mail the author at ness_doctor@yahoo.com


BEST BUDS. Kat and JM Rodriguez with Cutie del Mar

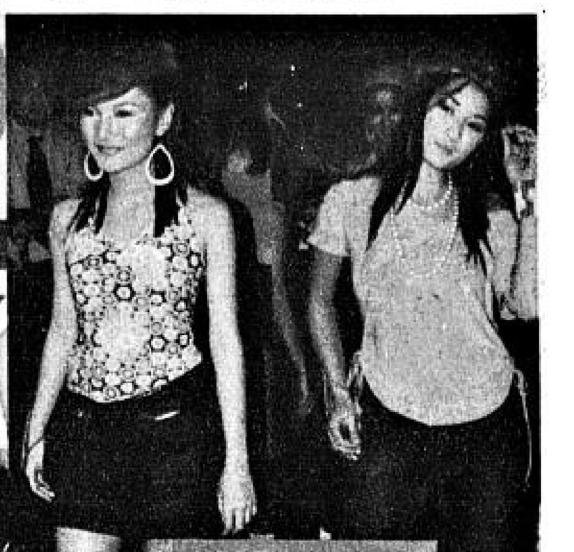
WAZZUP, PARE! Drew Arellano and Bianca Gonzalez

GETTING intimate with Iya Villania

VITAMIN C. Cheska Garcia at Temple Bar

MEG'S Cutest Female Celebrity Heart Evangelista and Marco Alcaraz

DASHING Dustin Reyes played host.


MEG Face finalists Johanna Perez (left) and Geralyn Gaspar (right)

POND'S white beauty Karel Marquez

RICO Blanco of Rivermaya brings the house down.

PRINCE of RnB Jay-R does what he does best—capture the crowd.

SWEETEST THANG. Geneva Cruz and KC Montero

RATED Kyla at the Meg anniversary

VANITY KITS. Vicky Tensuan and Shu Uemura's Xeng Zulueta

T TIMES TWO. Siblings Cheryl and Chris Tiu

The rock star diet

Let's eat well, work out at the gym and get enough sleep to be able to party "responsibly"

Yaparazzi!

Tim Yap

PARTY all day, party all night. With that kind of a lifestyle, even if you eat all the carbs and protein you want the next day, you're guaranteed not to gain a single pound of flesh. Plus you'll look gaunt, with cheekbones so prominent you can give Michelle Pfeiffer a run for her money.

But I'm not a health professional (so don't follow the aforementioned advice), nor am I on this diet. In fact, I just finished a bag of *chicharritos* (from Cebu) and peanut brittle (from Baguio, where else?). My friends always get surprised when they see me eat. But that's a different story.

I slept through the whole of Saturday night (being super busy last week for Inquirer Super!'s anniversary events) and missed **Karel (Marquez)** choosing Lee (the model formerly known as **Brent Javier**) over Diego and Francis. Dang!

Also that night, **DJ Qbert** (who, according to my hip hop links, is the best hip hop DJ in the world, and he just so happens to be Pinoy) played to a not-so-crowded Loft at Rockwell (how come nobody knew about this? Paging the promoters...).

Anyway, talking about events that I missed, the Motomansion party held recently at Bauhinia St. at ol' Forbes had a whole mishmash of rock stars. All of them playing with this new hip and hot gadget by Motorola—the E398.

And why not? I was privy to the launch some months back when DJ god **Paul Van Dyk** himself tinkered with his E398 before handing it to me at a yacht party in Miami, the birthplace of the South Beach diet.

Moto music and Meg

When I put my Motorola earphones on, it's like having your iPod double up as a phone. No surprise that the rock stars present all carried it proudly like a badge of honor.

But the "real" rock stars were the ones who locked themselves inside the private rooms of the Forbes enclave. There, away from the madding crowd, they could listen, dance and play... with their E398 phones. As the Smart Addict ad slogan said, "Now, it's personal."

Speaking of which, my personal appearance hop took me to the Meg "Sweetest Thang" event at Temple Bar. I went with Shu Uemura makeup maven **Xeng Zulueta** to look for the sweetest gal, Meg ed-in-chief **Pierra Calasanz**, soon to be Mrs. **Toto Labrador** (ace lensman and veteran of fashion glossy covers this side of town).

I really look up to teen mag editors (aside from Pierra, there's **Vicky Montenegro** of Chalk, **Mia Fausto** of Seventeen, **Bebeth Timbol** of Pink, et al). Lest you think it's an easy job talking to teens, think of talking to yourself during your pent-up-anger-pressure-to-conform-and-look-good-with-a-zit-in-your-face stage and you'll know what I mean.

Real-life issues

For how do you talk about teen pregnancies without sounding like a preachy principal? How do you tell young people it's not cool to drown yourself in drugs? (Most skip the alcohol part and just jump straight into crack—yup, quite a sad fact.) How do you communicate quiet confidence without sounding like a pompous self-help guru?

A great dose of subtlety, a subtle dose of humor and a humorous dosage of useful advice (I don't know if I'm making sense—I just like the play on words) is needed. Not to mention having to look forever young. (Don't ask teen editors how old they are. You'll be shocked.)

Aside from all the fluff (cute girl this, cute girl that, crush *ko yon*, crush *ko yan*) that you see when you flip through these publication's pages (they have to sell too, ya know...), these young editors hold the responsibility of educating their market without sounding like constipated adults out on an anti-sex-drugs-and-violence-agenda.

And they get mobbed when they visit the campuses. Students relate to them like their elder siblings. (Hmm... Come to think of it, how come there are no men's teen mags? Ahh, there's FHM...) Girls have their photos taken and ask for their autographs. So now, who are the "real" rock stars? Sometimes, the pen is indeed mightier than, uh, the guitar.

So let's eat as much as we want. Go for a more balanced diet than anything. Dr. Atkins is now dead and the South Beach girls are actually anorexic models. Afterwards, let's work it out at the gym and get a healthy dose of sleep (something that I have to do as well) to be able to party "responsibly" whenever we feel like it, and not because we are pressured to. Now that's how a real rock star behaves.

And you don't have to be a **Bamboo** or a **Brandon Boyd** to be one. If your limelight frustration all of a sudden creeps in—well, there's always Red Box.

HOT and sassy Aubrey Miles

PENSHOPPE PALS. Vicky Herrera and [illegible]

SOON TO WED. Pierra Calasanz and Toto Labrador

VON Dutch boy Jolo Revilla

A-PLUS Arnee Hidalgo [illegible]

MOTO [illegible] Amaranto and Iya Yotoko

BARBIE Almalbis, Motorola E398 convert

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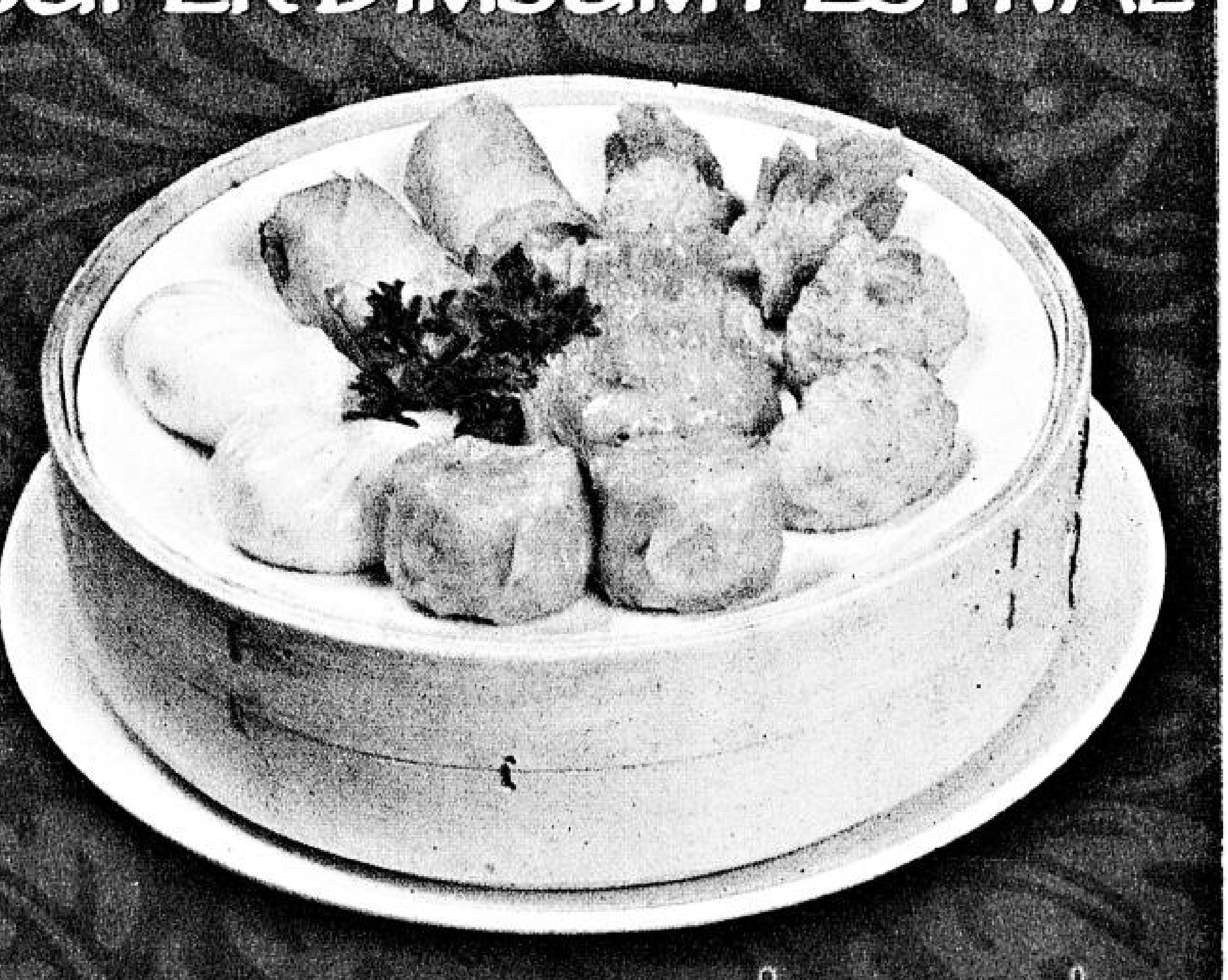

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• 2nd Level, Main Building, SM City North Edsa, Q.C.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 3888 Series of 2004

MOTO TRIO. Asia Agcaoili, Robby Carmona and Dennis Torrepalma

ROBIN da Roza gets himself a Motorola E398.

MOTO MUSIC. Cindy Kurleto and Sarah Meier

MOTO ROCK. Mark Escueta and Danica Sotto

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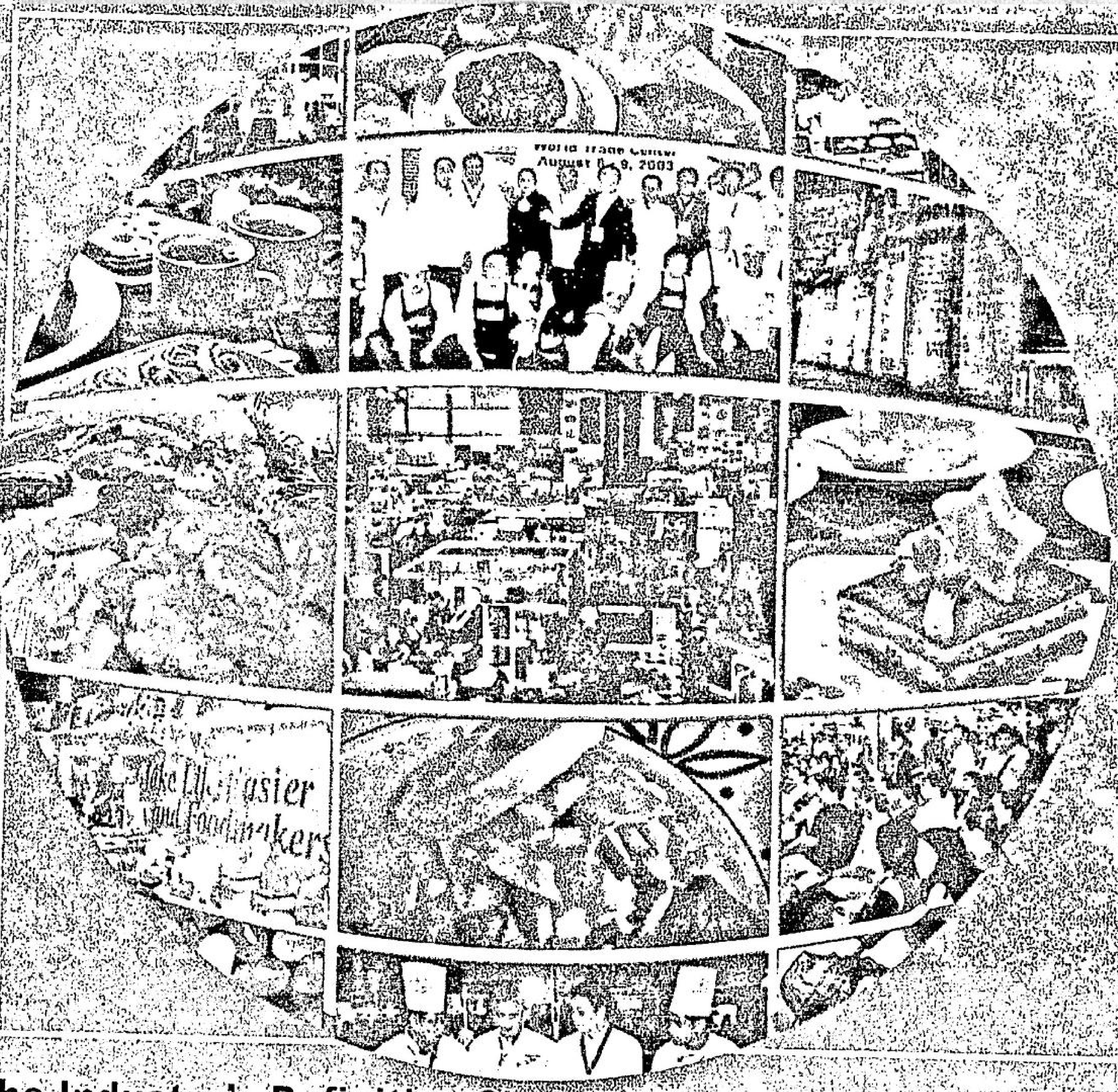

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BAKER'S FAIR

Exhibition on Confectionaries, Ingredients, Bakery Products, Equipment, Supplies & Technologies

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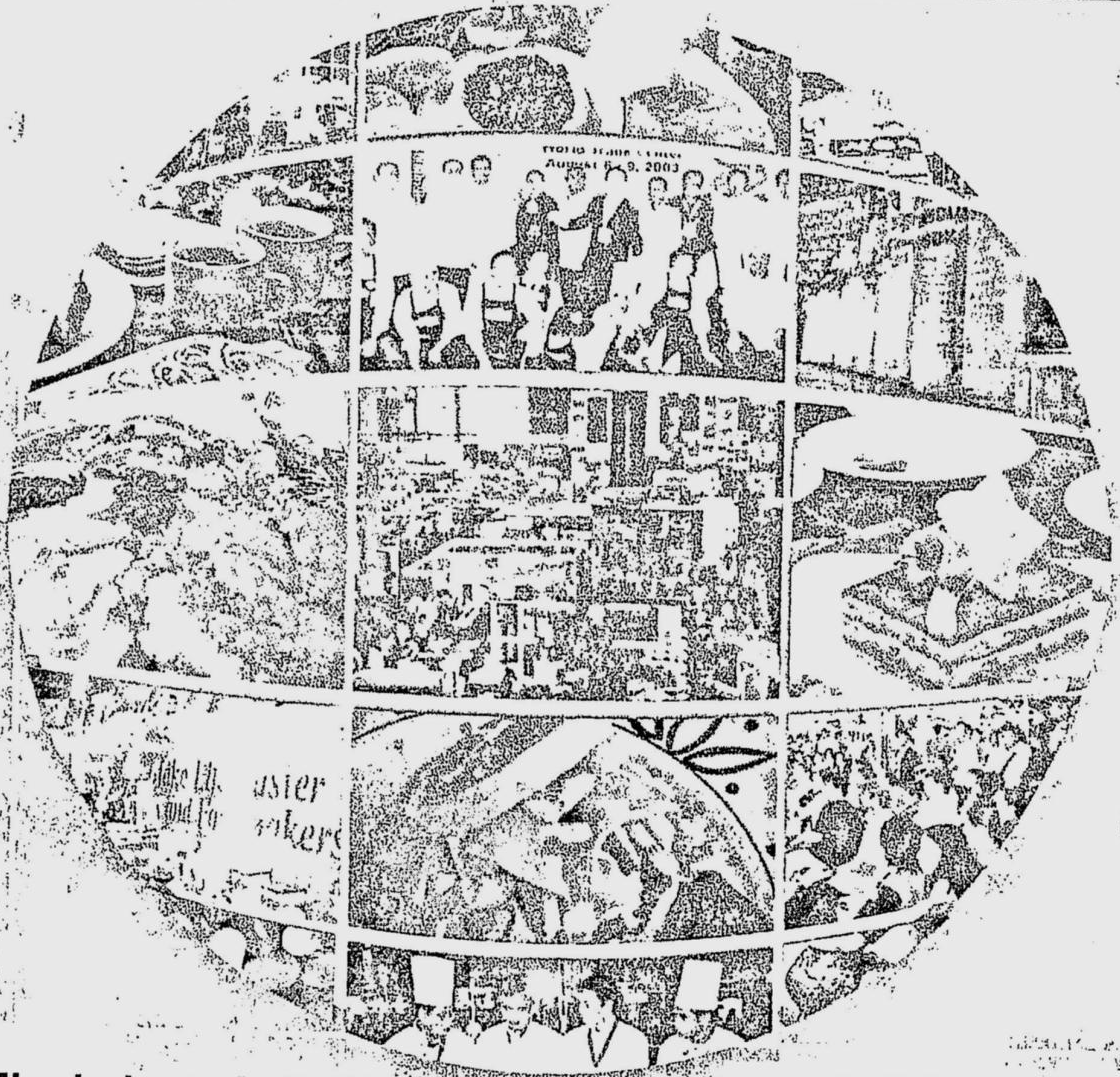

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FOODMACH 2004 Expo
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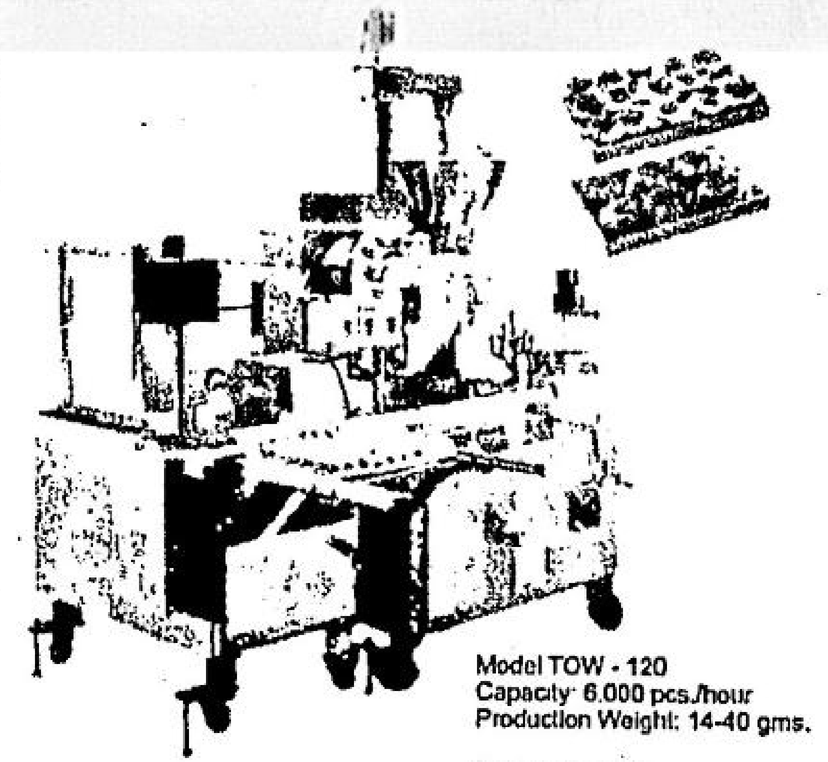
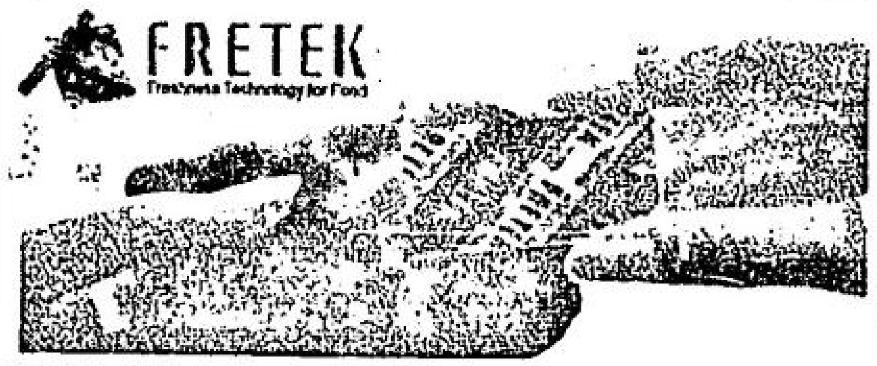


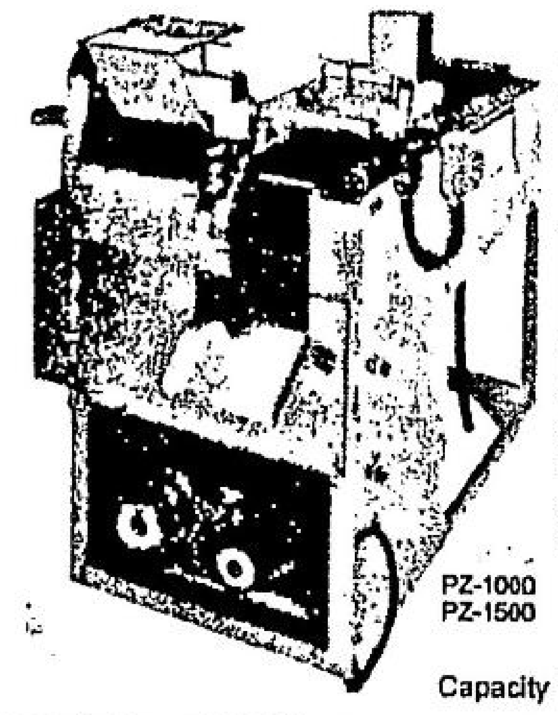
Model TOW - 120
Capacity: 6,000 pcs./hour
Production Weight: 14-40 gms.

Model TOS - 80
Capacity: 3,000-5,000 pcs./hour
Production Weight: 14-50 gms.

RHEON
CORNUKOPIA

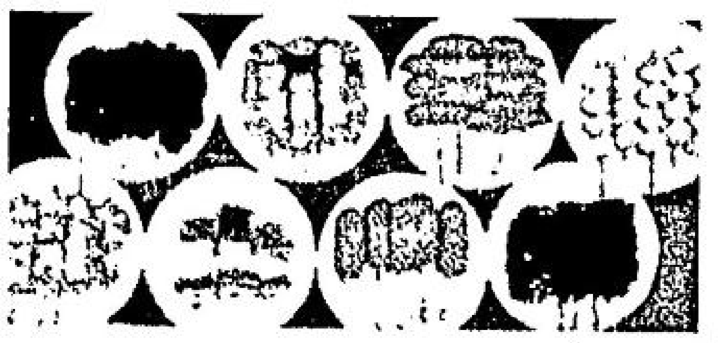
Employ the multi-capacity encrusting Robot KN-400 to create high-quality products from savory foods to confectionery ingredients, ranging from very small to very large product sizes. Through an array of optional devices, KN400 can also perform double and solid filling encrusting.


FRETEK
Freshness Technology for Food


PZ-1000
PZ-1500

HOKUTO KOGYO CO. LTD.

Stick Skewering Machine

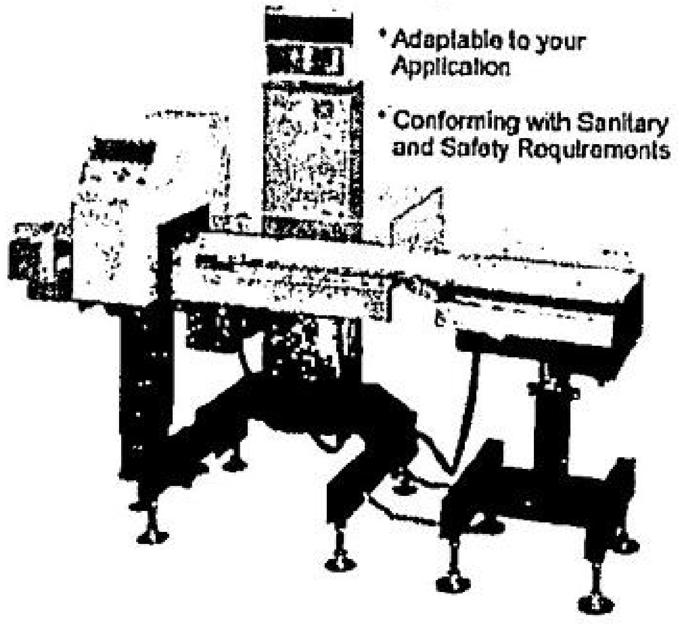


Capacity 1,000 - 1,500 sticks per hour

SQUARE

FEATURES :

- Detecting Sensitivity Remarkably Improved
- Easy to Use
- Adaptable to your Application
- Conforming with Sanitary and Safety Requirements



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Herb-ACE
Herbal Dietary Supplement with Vitamin A,C,E and Calcium Pantothenate
PPC
Centella
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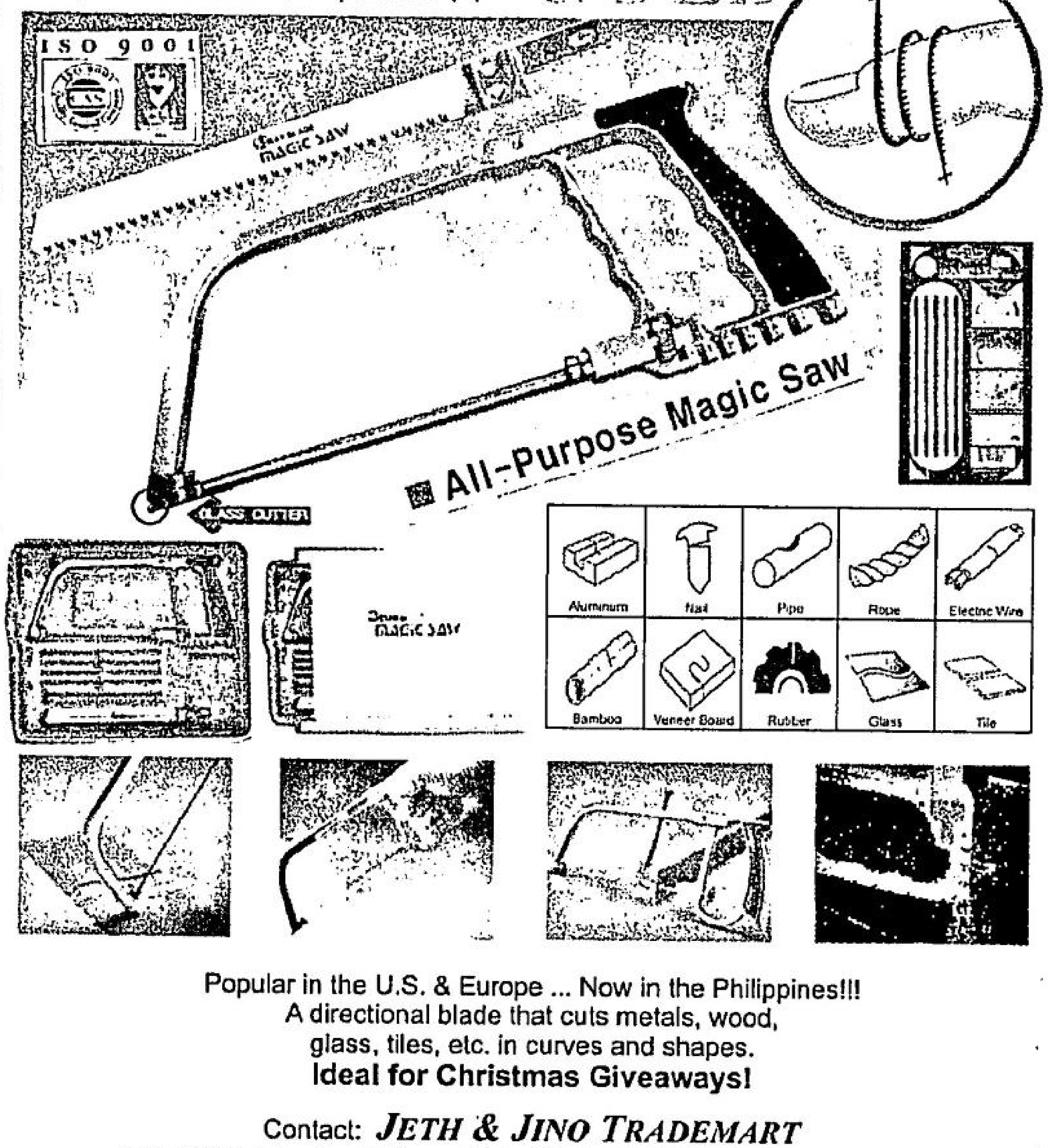
3WAY BLADE MAGIC SAW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Nail
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Veneer Board
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Popular in the U.S. & Europe ... Now in the Philippines!!!
A directional blade that cuts metals, wood, glass, tiles, etc. in curves and shapes.
Ideal for Christmas Giveaways!

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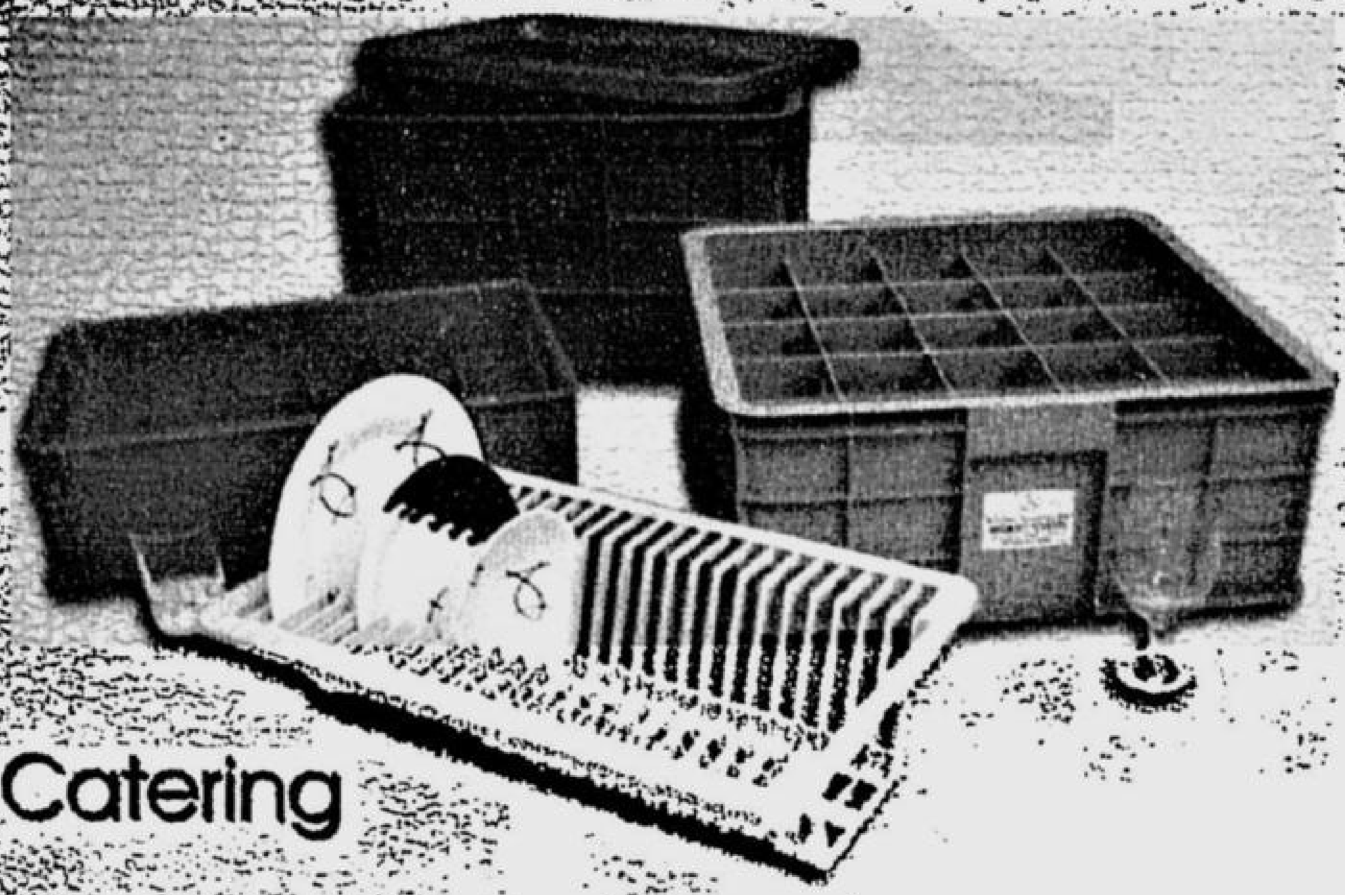
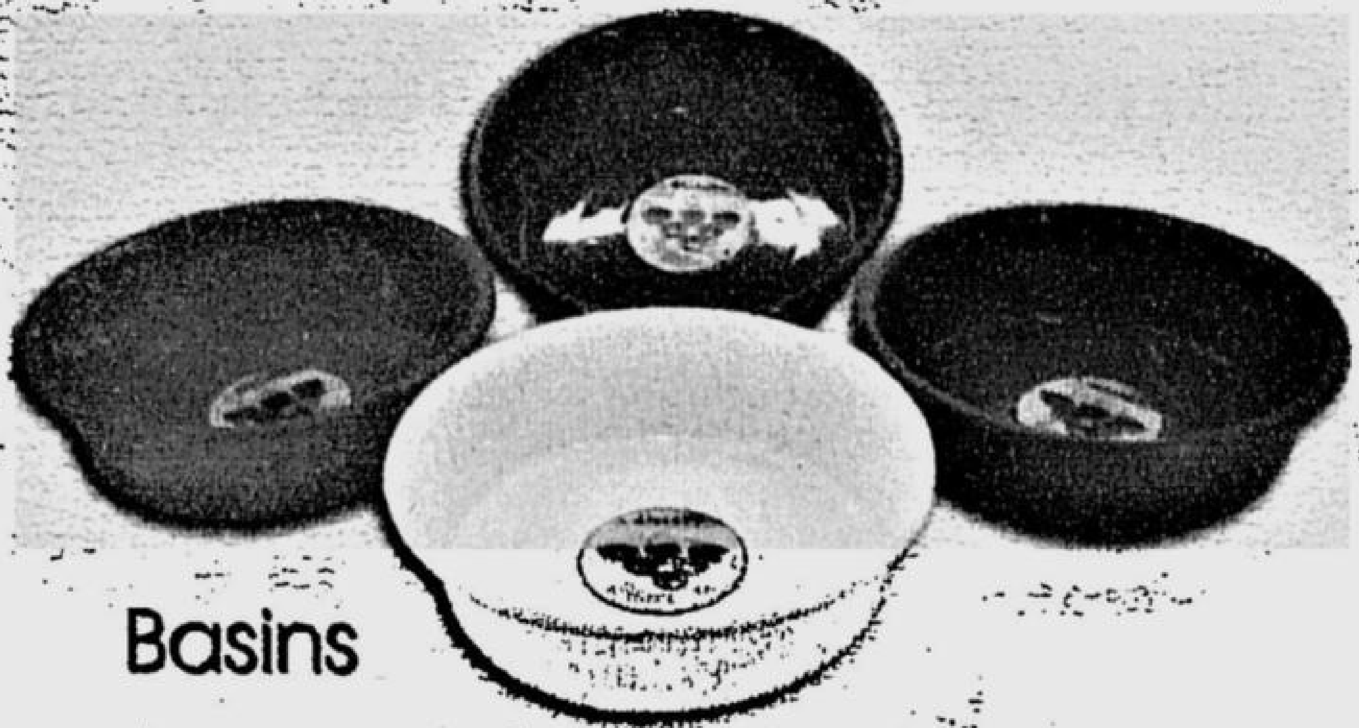
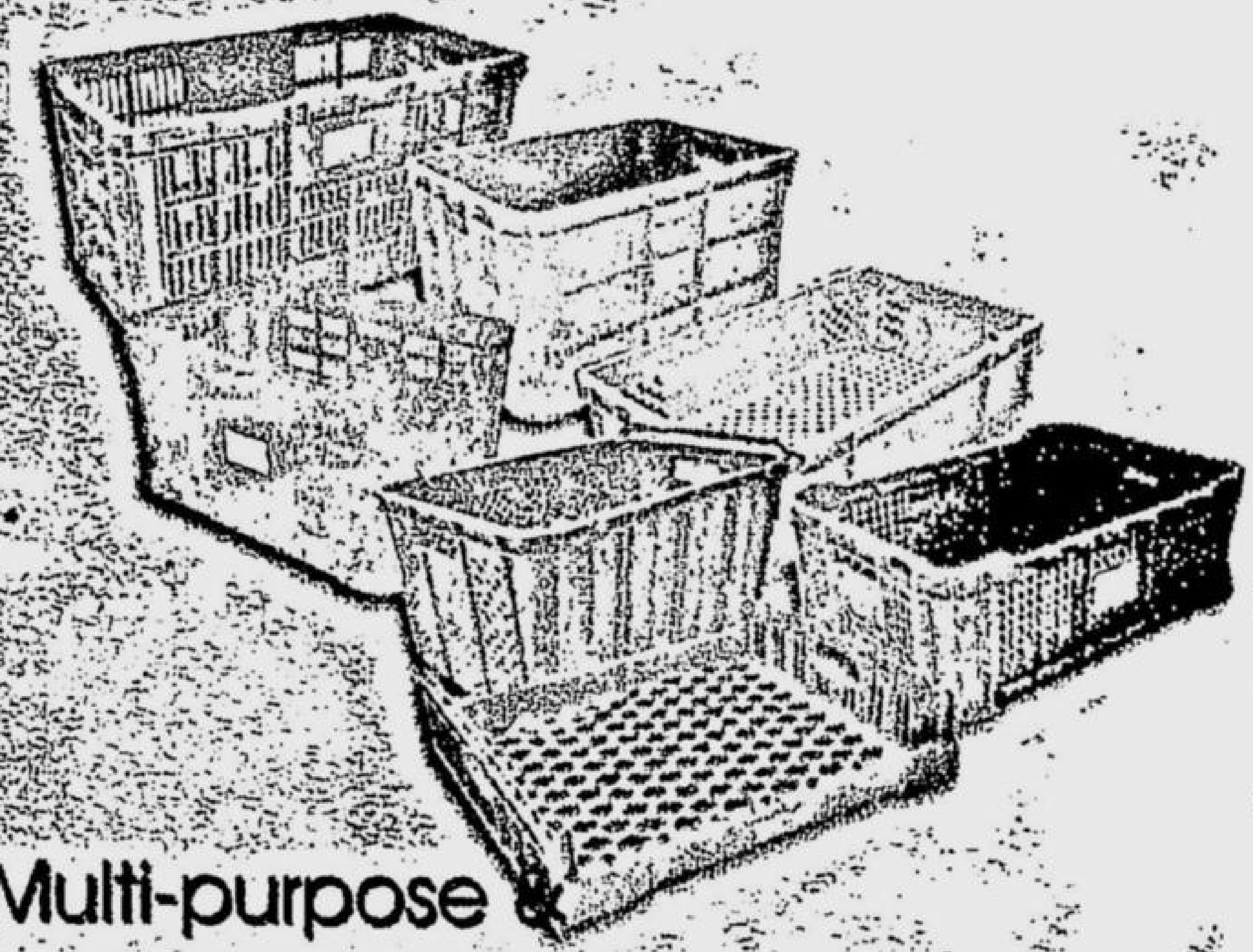
Quality & Durability

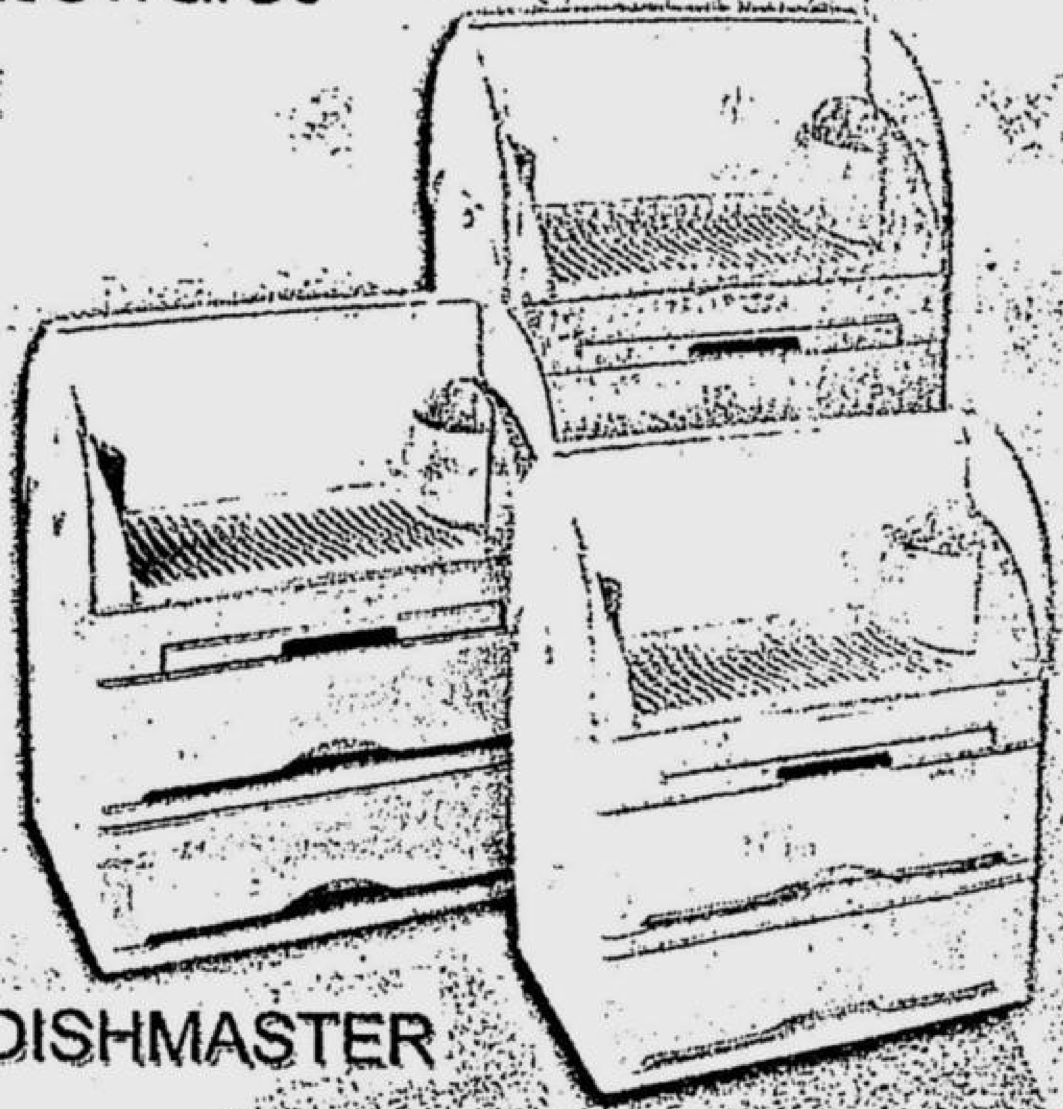

Catering


Basins


Multi-purpose &
Food handling crates

Housewares

Alatone
PAIL
Pails & Utility Cans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YOUR ULTIMATE FOOD SHOW EXPERIENCE!

WOFEX 2004

WORLD'S FOOD EXPO

OPENS TODAY

On Our 4th Year, We Mean Business!

Welcome to the annual WORLD'S FOOD EXPO or WOFEX. From August 4 to 7, 2004, the food and beverage industry will once again converge in the halls of World Trade Center to experience the country's fastest growing and most attended food show.

With all three halls filled up with products and services that are proudly the best of the world, coupled with some of the most innovative programs, WOFEX is all set to play its role of being a catalyst to economic activity in the country. The development of the country's food sector is an agenda that is on top of the government's priorities. With a population of over 80 million people, emphasis must be place on food production efficiency.

By bringing together the best of the world together with our local food producers, many learning opportunities abound, in terms of marketing, packaging, quality standards, food technology and many others. This interaction can only benefit the Philippine food industry in the long run. We at Premier Events Plus Group, Inc. have always believed that beyond just a business, each and every trade show that we do must fulfill the basic objective of providing as many trade opportunities to our exhibitors as possible.

As in the past, the trade floor will the arena for buyers and sellers to meet. WOFEX truly offers a complete line of supply solutions for food businesses, big and small. The best of imports, the best Philippine-made products and many other allied products are on display. This 2004 series also has many new exhibitors, Some joining trade fairs for the very first time. New exhibitors mean new products, new ideas.

WOFEX 2004 has, likewise, attracted almost all of the F&B major players in the country. This overwhelming support is proof positive of the growing importance of World's Food Expo to trade.

WOFEX continues to co-locate the FoodMach Expo, the Taste Expo, the World Food Summit, Baker's Fair and the newest addition, the Exporter's Supermarket. After having successfully brought in the best products around the globe in the past, WOFEX is placing more focus on the Philippine-made products with this new co-located event.

The Philippines' Best
The Industry's Definitive Choice
The Most Anticipated Food Show

If you are in the food business or simply a lover of food, head on to the World Trade Center from August 4 to 7, 2004 and be a part of WOFEX 2004.

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SEMINAR SERIES

- Limited Seats Available, Strictly First-Come-First-Serve Basis
- Seminars are Free except where a Participation Fee is Indicated
- Pre-Registration for Paid Seminars Highly Recommended
- Call Premier Events at 9297963 / 9297993 For Reservations

DAY 1 (Aug. 4 - WED)

Seminar Room A

1-4 PM	Are You Ready To Open A Restaurant? (Starting-up, Pre-Opening, Daily Operations) *by New York Chef Restaurant Consultancy* (P300)
4-5 PM	Branding: How To Compete With The "Giants" *by Tropical Ice, GBSI*
5-6 PM	Financing Schemes & Other Products & Services for SMES *by Planters Bank*

Seminar Room C

1-6 PM	Toque of the City *by Unilever Bestfoods*

DAY 2 (Aug. 5 - THU)

Seminar Room A

1-2 PM	LPG Product Knowledge & Safety Seminar *by Petron Gasul Corporation with Mr. Eduardo M. Antiligando*
2-3 PM	How To Start a Small Scale Food Business *by Handyware Philippines*
3-4 PM	Advantages of Acquiring Halal Certification *by Dir. Datu Tahir Lidasan Jr.*
4-5 PM	All About Wine *by Cordon Bleau Deli Products*
5-6 PM	Health, Wealth & Longevity (diets, proper food intake, losing weight et al) *by Arsi Baltazar of Hewell Company*

Seminar Room C

1-4 PM	New Business Opportunities *by San Miguel Corporation*
4-7 PM	"Let's Make Dough" *with Johnlu Koa, Frenchbaker* Hands-On (P1,000.00 limited to 24 participants) Gallery Participant (P200.00)

DAY 3 (Aug. 6 - FRI)

Seminar Room A

1-2 PM	Cooking Safe: A Worry-Free Kitchen *by Shellane*
2-3 PM	Maintaining Security in Workplace *by Handyware Philippines*
3-4 PM	Food & Beverage Control Systems *by Performance Advantage Systems Inc.*
4-5 PM	Product Orientation of Safe Handling of Balloon Gas & Cynlinder *by CIGI*
5-6 PM	Business Opportunities in Water Refilling Stations *by ATT Group of Companies*

Seminar Room C

1-6 PM	How to Improve & Manage Your Bakery *by Universal Robina Corporation with Carolyn Alberto & Nicanor Ines*

DAY 4 (Aug. 7 - SAT)

Seminar Room A

12-3PM	Food Safety, Handling & Sanitation *by Chef Norbert Gandler (ISCAHM)*
3-6 PM	Food & Beverage Mgt & Cost Control *by Chef Hans Schallenberg (ISCAHM)*

Seminar Room C

1-2 PM	All About Franchising *by RK Franchise Consultancy*
2-3 PM	Mega Profits in Beverages *by Allegro Beverage Corporation*
3-6 PM	Fruits & Vegetables Carving Course *by Hotel & Restaurants Chef Association of the Philippines* (P500.00)

WE CONTINUE TO SERVE YOU QUALITY SEMINARS.

TASTE EXPO

- All activities below are at the Taste Expo Stage
- Scheduled Taste Expo activities for public viewing
- Sitting strictly on a first-come-first serve basis

DAY 1 (Aug. 4 - WED)

11-12 NN	Bread Display Competition by Universal Robina
12-2 PM	San Miguel GFS Corporation Demo
2-5 PM	Grand Classic Cocktail Competition by Phil. Bartender's League
5-6 PM	Desserts by Food Magazine
6-7 PM	Fantastic Pasta by Food Magazine

DAY 2 (Aug. 5 - THU)

11-12 NN	Cooking Made Easy by MCN Distributors Inc.
12-5 PM	No Boundaries Salad Competition by Unilever Bestfoods Foodsolutions
5-6 PM	Kiddie Cuisine Food Magazine
6-7 PM	Cooking for Couples by Food Magazine

DAY 3 (Aug. 6 - FRI)

11-12 NN	Healthy Cooking by Tefal
12-2 PM	Shellane Cooking Demo
2-4 PM	Cosmic Chemical Corp Bakery Demo
4-7 PM	Master Flairtending Showdown by Phil. Bartender's League

DAY 4 (Aug. 7 - SAT)

11-12 NN	Mega Fishing Cooking Demo
12-2 PM	San Miguel Great Food Solutions Demo
2-4 PM	Cold Kitchen Fest: Sandwich Assembly Competition by San Miguel Great Food Solutions
4-7 PM	Quizine Show by Food Magazine

Schedules subject to change without prior notice. No one under 16 years old allowed. Expo Hours: 10 AM - 7PM.

Other Event Highlights of WOFEX

Themed Table Setting

Witness the artistry of the Food Caterer's Association of the Philippines as they showcase table settings at its best at the lobby area of the World Trade Center.

Exporter's Supermarket

Proudly Philippine-made products ready for the export market will be on display at the Exporter's Supermarket, a castle-like pavilion where buyers can sample & purchase products on display.

The Boiler Room

The process behind food manufacturing is revealed through this innovative display by Enertech Systems Industries, Inc. "The Boiler Technology People" at the lobby area and at Seminar Room B.

Culinary Competitions

Once again, WOFEX launches some new concepts in culinary competitions. In previous editions, we have done Spice Sculptures, Best Chocolate Desserts, Cooking with Beer, among many others. This year, we launch the No Boundaries Salad Competition and the Flairtending and Cocktail Competitions as well as the Creative Sandwiches Competition. Can't miss events in WOFEX.

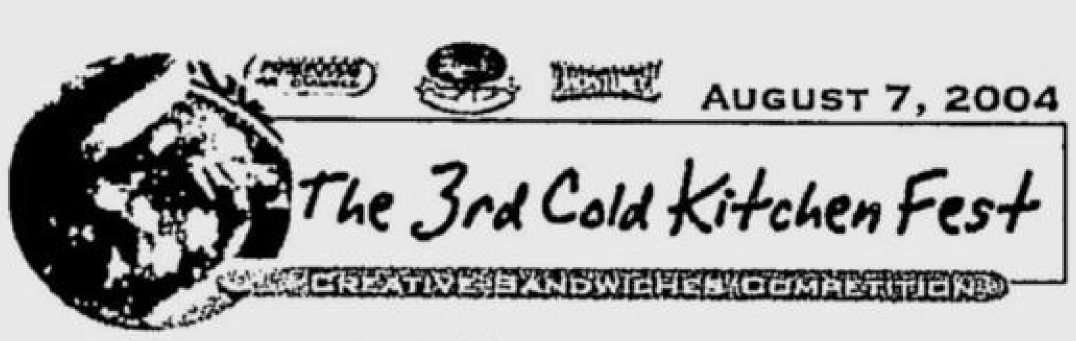
Buyer's Night

On August 4, 2004, WOFEX will have a Buyer's Night (by invitation only) sponsored by Enertech at the Makati Skyline in World Trade Center at 7 in the evening. Buyers & Sellers will be able to network in a night of trade opportunities.

Catch these exciting culinary competitions for professional chefs and bartenders at the Taste Expo Stage.

UBE
Unilever-Bestfoods Foodsolutions
NO BOUNDARIES
Salad Competition
AUGUST 5, 2004

AUGUST 6, 2004
Master Flairtending Showdown
Grand Cocktail Competition
AUGUST 4, 2004



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WOFEX 2004

WORLD'S FOOD EXPO

don't miss!

"Are You Ready To Open A Restaurant?"
(Starting-Up, Pre-Opening, Daily Operations)
by New York Chef Restaurant Consultancy
P 300.00
August 4, 2004, 1-4 PM
World Trade Center

"Let's Make Dough"
by Johnlu Koa of Frenchbaker
Hands-On :
P 1000.00
(limited to 24)
Gallery Participant:
P200.00
August 5, 2004
4-7 PM
World Trade Center

learn from the pros

"Fruit & Vegatable Carving Course"
by Hotel and Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines
P 500.00
August 7, 2004, 3-6 PM
World Trade Center

only at wofex

Train under top-calibre 5-star executive chefs, pastry chefs and hotel executives, and join the many men and women working in international hotel chains, restaurants and luxury cruise liners.

At ISCAHM, we turn your **Passion** into a **Career**

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- 3-month Fundamentals of Pastry Arts
- 1-month Fundamentals of Bread Baking
- 3-month Asian Cooking
- 2-month Waiter Apprenticeship Program

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4/F FBR Arcade, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City **Tel** +632 926 8888/920 1481 **Website** www.iscahm.com

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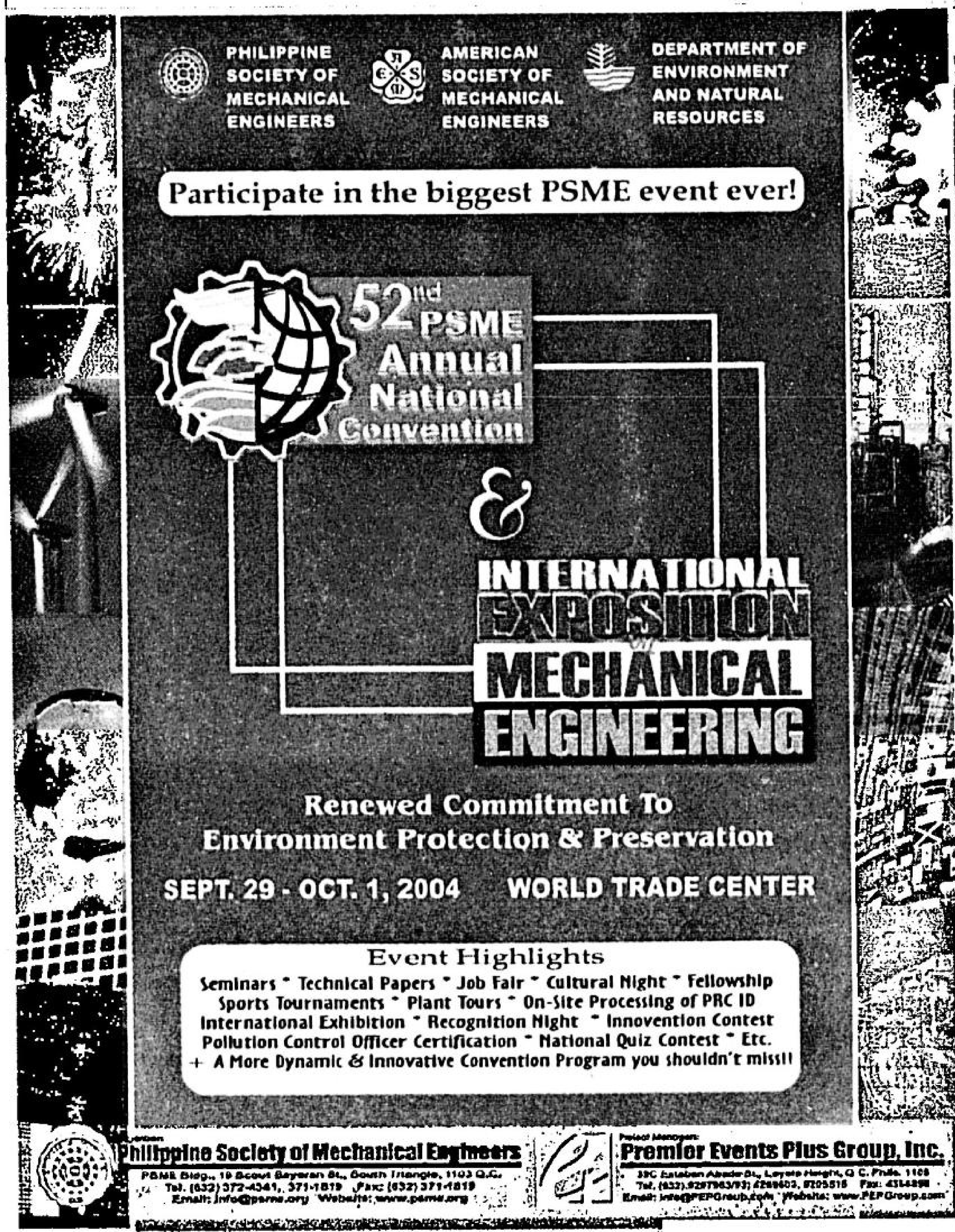

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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SEPT. 29 - OCT. 1, 2004 WORLD TRADE CENTER

Event Highlights
Seminars * Technical Papers * Job Fair * Cultural Night * Fellowship
Sports Tournaments * Plant Tours * On-Site Processing of PRC ID
International Exhibition * Recognition Night * Innovention Contest
Pollution Control Officer Certification * National Quiz Contest * Etc.
+ A More Dynamic & Innovative Convention Program you shouldn't miss!!

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Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers
PSME Bldg., 19 Scout Bayoran St., South Triangle, 1103 Q.C.
Tel. (632) 372-4341, 371-1819 Fax: (632) 371-1819
Email: info@psme.org Website: www.psme.org

Project Manager:
Premier Events Plus Group, Inc.
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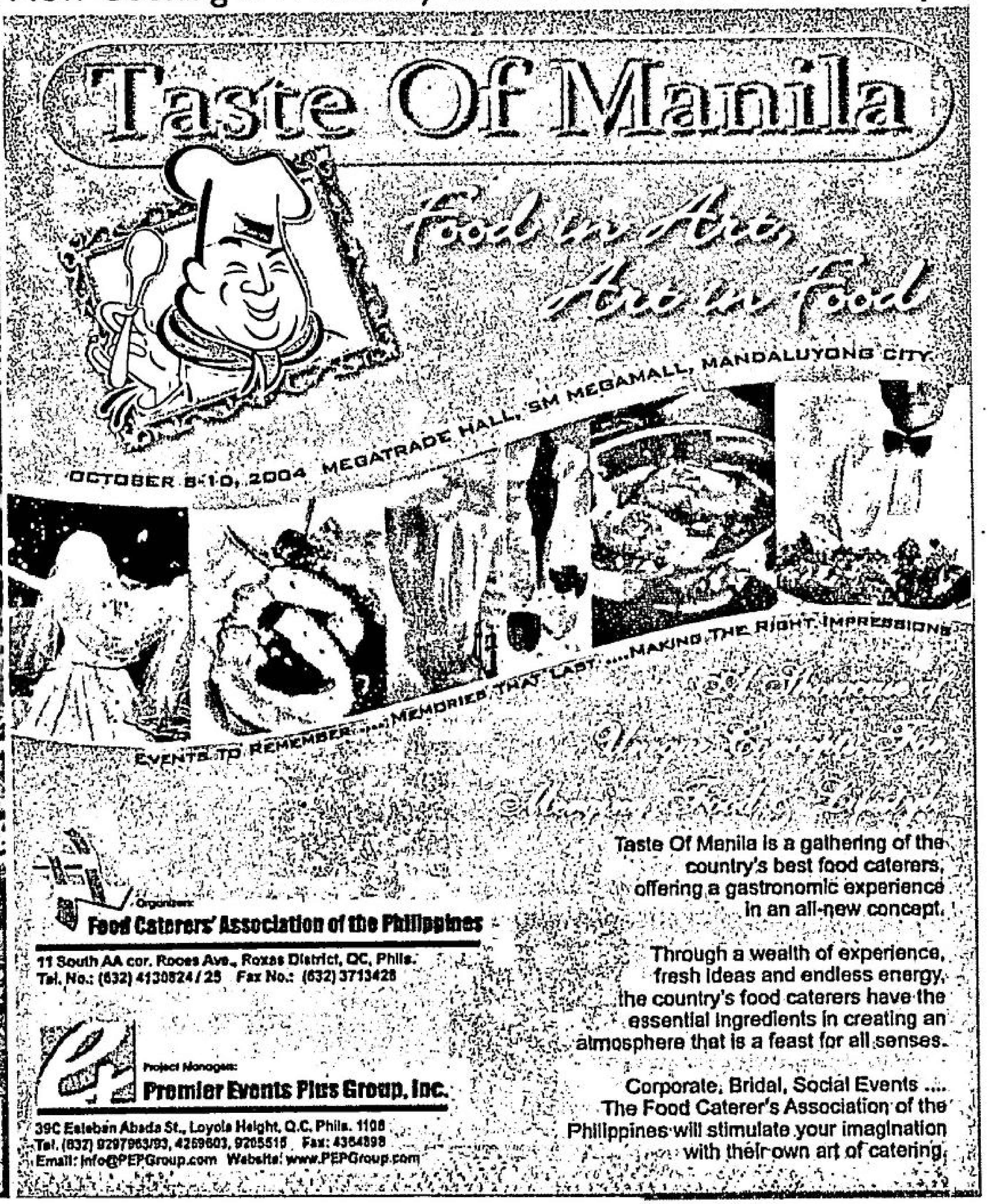

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Project Manager:
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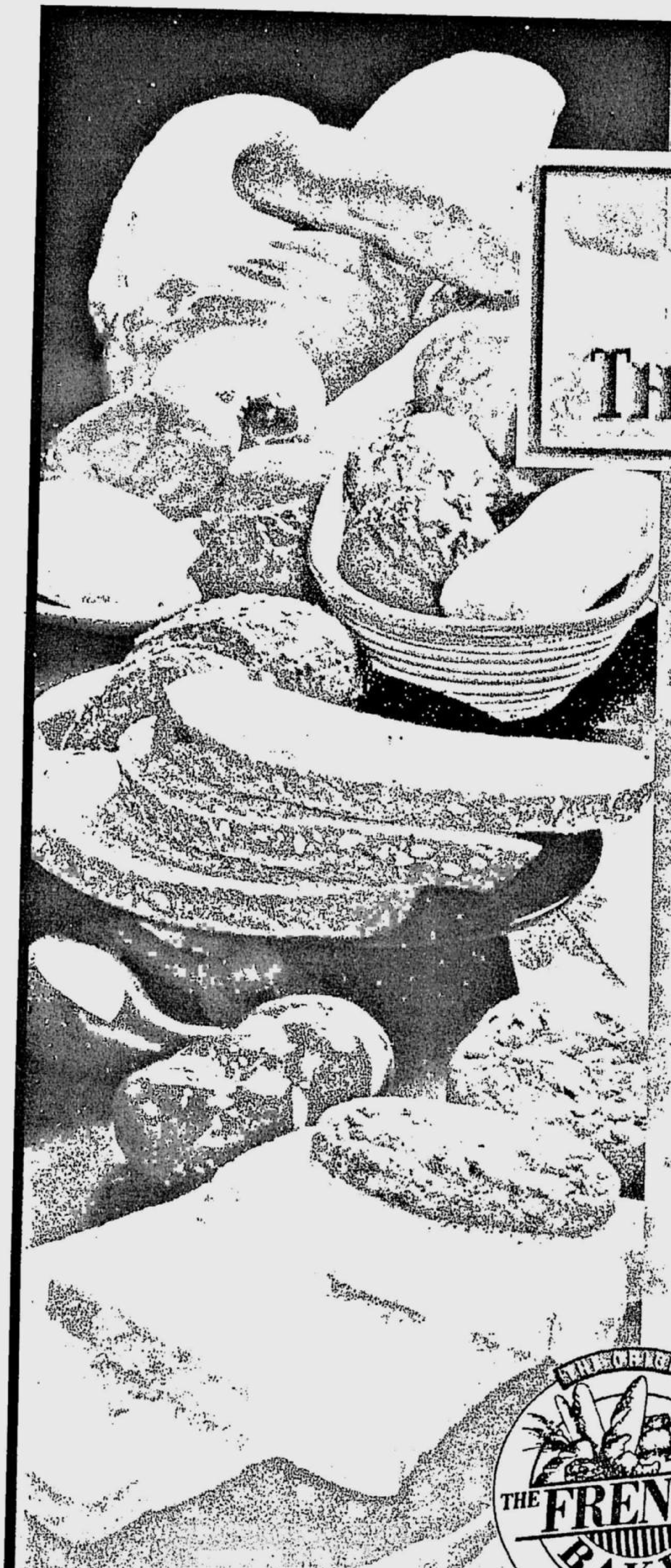

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